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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2012



Peace field  
Adams National Historical Park

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## **Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan**

### **Inventory Summary**

#### **The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:**

##### **CLI General Information:**

##### **Purpose and Goals of the CLI**

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### **Scope of the CLI**

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

**Inventory Unit Description:**

Peace field is part of Adams National Historical Park, located in the City of Quincy, Norfolk County, Massachusetts, approximately ten miles south of Boston. The park includes the birthplaces of second U.S. President John Adams, born on October 30, 1735, and his son and sixth U.S. President John Quincy Adams, born on July 11, 1767; and the Old House at Peace field, which includes the Old House and surrounding grounds. The Old House was home to four generations of the Adams family from 1787 to 1927. The birthplaces and Peace field are slightly over one mile apart, and together include eleven historic structures and a cultural landscape totaling almost 14 acres. Nearby are the United First Parish Church, where both Presidents and the First Ladies are entombed in the Adams family crypt, and an off-site visitor center.

The main focus of the 4.77-acre Peace field property is the two-story, wood framed Old House, built in 1731. It was the home to Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams; First Ladies Abigail and Louisa Catherine Adams; Civil War Minister to Great Britain Charles Francis Adams; and literary historians Henry and Brooks Adams. Adjacent to the house is the stone library built in 1873, which contains more than 12,000 books that belonged to the Adamses. The surrounding landscape at Peace field includes an eighteenth-century style formal garden containing a mix of annual and perennial flowers, a historic orchard, and a duck pond.

The property is composed of three principal spaces: the Old House with entry walks to the south and the flower garden and library to the west; the east lawn and carriage house on either side of the tree lined drive; and an orchard, meadow, and pond area to the north. Surrounding roads include Adams Street to the south, Newport Avenue to the east, and Furnace Brook Parkway to the north. A gravel driveway enters the property at two points from Newport Avenue—to the north and south of the carriage house—that encircles the carriage house and forks continue west to the back of the Old House. Along Adams Street, two pedestrian entry gates open to walkways that lead to the Old House's long front porch and double entry doors. This path connects to orthogonal gravel paths in the flower garden and to the library. Mown paths extend from the house and garden areas into the orchard and over to the adjacent Beale estate to the west (also within the park's boundaries).

Within the property, views are framed by buildings and shade trees, with longer views to the open meadows to the west and north. Views beyond the property portray the mixed development that occurred in the twentieth century including suburban homes, a ten-story apartment building, a gas station, and the constant flow of vehicle traffic on the surrounding streets. In addition, the MBTA Commuter Rail and Red Line trains run regularly just to the east of the site.

The numerous shade trees on the property provide separation from the surrounding built environment. Notable trees include mature yellowwood and black walnut in the flower garden, an elm near the duck pond, and numerous fruit and nut trees in the orchard. Vines climb trellises on the Old House, adhere to the walls of the stone library, and cover the property's stone boundary wall. Ornamental shrubs surround the Old House and flower garden area.

A number of small-scale elements are found throughout the site including hitching posts along Adams



Street, a well and pump to the north of the Old House, trellis structures for vines, a drying yard delineated by posts and clotheslines, as well as several modern benches and signs. Collectively, the layout of the buildings, walkways, vegetation, and small-scale features convey the unique relationship held by each Adams family generation with the property.

## HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Members of the Massachusetts confederation of Native Americans occupied the Quincy area prior to the arrival of European settlers in the early 1600s. The parcel of land that would later become the site of the Old House was situated along an early transportation route between Boston and Plymouth. The land passed through a series of owners before it was purchased in 1730 by Major Leonard Vassall, a merchant who prospered from the sugar cane industry in Jamaica. Vassall constructed a prominent residence (Old House) facing south toward the main road with a fruit and flower garden to the west of the house and several outbuildings to the east. In 1738 the property passed to Vassall's daughter Anna, who later married John Borland. John died in 1775 at the outset of the American Revolution and Anna, a Loyalist, fled to England, leaving the property to fall into disrepair.

When John and Abigail Adams purchased the property in 1787, they initially acquired eighteen and one-half acres surrounding the house and associated farmland as well as some seventy discontinuous acres extending north over Furnace Brook and south across Adams Street on Stonyfield Hill, now known as Presidents Hill. During the thirty-nine years they owned the property, John and Abigail purchased additional land, and improved the house, outbuildings, and grounds. Most modifications to the house were made during John Adams's tenure as the country's first Vice President from 1789 and 1797, and as the second President, from 1797 to 1801. Naming the property "Peace field" or "Peacefield," Adams divided his energy between leading the country and farming, while Abigail played an active role in enlarging the house, enhancing the grounds, adding farm buildings, overseeing tenant farmers, and hosting guests and family members. When Adams was not reelected in 1801, he devoted most of his time to farming operations in Quincy, acquiring approximately six hundred acres of farmland and woodlots by his death in 1826.

John Quincy Adams, the eldest son of John and Abigail, inherited the house and much of the surrounding land during his term as the nation's sixth President from 1825 to 1829. Like his father, John Quincy valued agriculture and retained most of the farmland and woodlots that his parents had purchased. Fascinated with native and non-native trees, John Quincy established tree nursery beds in the gardens and in the east lawn. His wife Louisa Catherine, who was raised in London, came to appreciate the rustic character of Quincy but typically only stayed at the Old House during the summertime and otherwise resided in Boston and Washington, D.C. John Quincy's political career abroad and in the nation's capital limited his direct involvement in farm operations, hence he relied on his youngest son, Charles Francis, to manage the property in his absence. Though not reelected for a second term as President, John Quincy's political career continued as he served in the U.S. House of Representatives for seventeen years until his death in 1848. By this time, the seedling trees in Quincy were flourishing, but were extremely crowded. Charles Francis transplanted fruit and shade trees throughout the grounds surrounding the Old House and to other family owned parcels, including his new

home on President's Hill called "New House."

The only surviving child at the time of John Quincy's death, Charles Francis, and his wife Abigail Brooks inherited the Adams' property in Quincy, while his mother Louisa Catherine remained in Washington, D.C. A large inheritance from Abigail Brooks' father, Peter Chardon Brooks, enabled the couple to make numerous improvements to the property, including a large house addition in 1869, construction of the first memorial presidential library in 1870, and construction of the carriage house in 1873. Charles Francis acquired additional land in Quincy and owned 885 acres in the 1860s. An avid writer and historian, Charles Francis published several volumes on his grandparents, John and Abigail Adams. He also served in the Massachusetts legislature, in the U.S. House of Representatives, and as the U.S. Ambassador to the Court of Saint James in England.

Some of the changes to the property by Charles Francis and Abigail Brooks were precipitated by the construction of Newport Avenue in 1873, which sliced off the eastern side of the estate. With the exception of the woodshed, the farm buildings erected by John and Abigail Adams in the 1790s were dismantled and the remaining farm operations were moved to the new carriage house. The void in the southeast corner of the property was filled with shade trees, which changed the character of the most visible corner of the property at the intersection of Newport Avenue and Adams Street from a working farm to a shady country estate. Many of the trees throughout the property were planted, or transplanted, by Charles Francis.

When Charles Francis died in 1886, ownership of Peace field passed to the Adams Real Estate Trust, an entity created by his heirs. His widow Abigail Brooks continued to reside in the house until her death in 1889. Eventually, their youngest son, Brooks, and his wife Evelyn "Daisy" Davis resided in the house seasonally. Brooks sought to preserve the property in its historic state, including the buildings, family library, and furnishings. He retained the overall appearance of the landscape, but carried out numerous improvements. Brooks relocated his great-grandmother's roses, added new ornamental plants around the house, constructed a new brick wall and entry gates in 1906, built an elaborate doghouse for his terriers, filled in the small pond in the orchard, constructed a new greenhouse in the orchard, and built a two-car garage in 1916.

The most dramatic change took place to the north of the house in the early 1900s when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts took ownership of a strip of the Adams' land along Furnace Brook for road construction in 1903. Furnace Brook Parkway split the remaining Peace field property, which left 4.15 acres surrounding the house and cut off 6.94 acres of fertile land to the north of the brook. The new parkway diminished the character and setting of the country estate, which was further compromised by the subsequent residential subdivisions and commercial use of the adjacent land.

Evelyn Adams died in 1926 and Brooks Adams died in the following year. In May 1927 the descendants of Charles Francis Adams established the Adams Memorial Society to manage the property and open the house and grounds for public tours, with the stated purpose of fostering civic virtue and patriotism. Faced with limited funds and increasing maintenance costs, changes to the property were necessarily minimal. A number of trees were lost due to maturity as well as during the

Hurricane of 1938. Vines covered the buildings and plants in the garden were minimally maintained. The organization struggled to keep up with property expenses through the Great Depression and World War II, and in 1944 members of the Adams Memorial Society unanimously approved a proposal to donate the property to the National Park Service. The property was transferred two years later.

In 1948 the National Park Service hired Wilhelmina Harris, who previously had been a secretary for Brooks Adams. She initially served as a historic aid and was promoted to site superintendent in 1950. By this time, she had nearly thirty years of experience with the management of the house and grounds and proved to be invaluable to the park's mission to preserve the buildings, family papers, and house furnishings. In the landscape, the park reversed two changes made during Brooks Adams' tenure—restoring the small duck pond and removing the two-car garage. Additional changes to the landscape included the removal of crowded and mature shade trees, replanting fruit trees in the orchard, and extension of the stone boundary wall along the Newport Avenue side of the property. The park also renovated the carriage house to accommodate park operations.

Initially established as the Adams Mansion National Historic Site, the park name was changed to Adams National Historic Site in 1952 at the request of the Adams family. In 1972 the park acquired the Beale estate west of Peace field and subsequently relocated park administration and maintenance facilities to the property. Six years later, the park acquired the Adams' birthplace sites. After working at the park for twenty-six years under Wilhelmina Harris, Marianne Peak became the park's second superintendent in 1986. The park approved a general management plan in 1996 that continues to set the management direction. In 1998, the park was renamed Adams National Historical Park to recognize the multiple properties associated with the Adams family.

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Peace field property is significant under National Register of Historic Places criteria A, B, and C. It is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics/government and literature for the period of 1787–1927, when four generations of the Adams family owned and resided on the property. The property is also significant at the local level in the area of conservation for the period of 1848–1927, encompassing the multigenerational preservation efforts of Charles Francis Adams, Brooks Adams, and the formation of the Adams Memorial Society in 1927. Peace field is significant under Criterion B at the national level for its association with significant political and literary figures of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, including John and Abigail Adams, John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams, Charles Francis Adams, and Brooks Adams. Peace field is also significant under Criterion C at the local level in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture for its Georgian and Victorian Eclectic Style architecture and its Colonial and Colonial Revival landscape and garden. Finally, the property may be significant under Criterion D at the national level for potential to yield prehistoric and historic archeological resources from the Native American and Colonial periods; however, a determination of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this report. The overall period of significance is 1731–1927, beginning with the construction of the Old House and ending with death of Brooks Adams, the last Adams family member to reside on the property.

#### ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

Overall, the existing character of the Peace field landscape reflects the layers of historic development for the 1731-1927 period of significance. The property retains its location, design, historic materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, although the setting is diminished by adjacent development. The Old House and its furnishings, as embellished by the four generations of Adamsses; the stone library and its books; the carriage house, greenhouse, and woodshed all remain. The garden to the west of the Old House has kept its original form and system of gravel paths and box hedges since first built for the Vassall/Borland family in the 1700s, though the summer house was removed and one corner was altered when the stone library was built in 1869, losing the northeast bed. Some original plant material remains, and other plants have been replaced in-kind. The stone walls on the property lines along Adams and Newport streets remain in good condition as does the entry gate. The view of the property from Adams Street and Newport Avenue reflects the rural character as depicted in historic drawings and photographs.

Since 1927, several landscape features present during the historic period were rebuilt, such as the duck pond and the dog house. Other changes have included replacing missing trees in the orchard, the removal of the Brooks Adams garage, and the construction of a section of boundary wall along Newport Avenue. The setting has diminished due to the continued growth of residential and commercial development around the property and the construction of the MBTA Red Line to the east in the early 1970s. However, the acquisition of the adjacent Beale property has helped preserve some of the site's rural character.

Overall, the house and other landscape features are in good condition, with the park maintaining preventative and cyclic maintenance schedules. The site shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Site Plan**



*Site plan for Peace field. (Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation--hereafter OCLP--2012)*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Peace field
<b>Property Level:</b>	Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	650017
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	650017

### Park Information

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Adams National Historical Park -ADAM
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	1710
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Adams National Historical Park

### CLI Hierarchy Description

Adams National Historical Park is divided into three landscapes: Peace field, the home of four generations of the Adams family; Beale Estate, home of Captain Beale from 1792-1825; and Adams Birthplaces, the birthplace homes of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Information for this Cultural Landscape Inventory has been extracted from the March 2012 draft of the “Cultural Landscape Report for Peace field, Adams National Historical Park.” The Cultural Landscape Report was prepared by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation in Boston and written by Allison Crosbie, Laurie Pazzano, and Margie Coffin Brown with contributions from students from the Boston Architectural College Landscape Institute, who participated in a historic preservation studio that focused on Peace field in 2010. Site visits were conducted for the Cultural Landscape Report beginning with Boston Architectural College Landscape Institute students in 2010, with additional site documentation in 2012. The CLR used primary source material gathered from the park, Massachusetts Historical Society, and other repositories in the Boston area. Information was also extracted from the National Register documentation. The CLI was further edited by Aaron Ahlstrom and the graphics prepared by Kirsten Holder at the Olmsted Center in 2012.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	09/25/2012
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	04/04/1980

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



CULTURAL LANDSCAPES INVENTORY  
CONCURRENCE FORM

Peace field  
Adams National Historical Park

Adams National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Peace field including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained


CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Good

**Good:** indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Fair:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

**Poor:** indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for Peace field is hereby approved and accepted.

  
Superintendent, Adams National Historical Park

9/25/12  
Date

*Park concurrence was received on September 25, 2012.*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

The 4.77-acre Peace field parcel is located on the north side of Adams Street, and bounded by Newport Avenue to the east, Furnace Brook to the north, and the Beale Estate to the west. Two land transactions relate to the current boundary. The core of the Peace field landscape, measuring 4.05 acres, was designated a national historic site in 1946. In the early 1900s, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts took a .72-acre strip of the Adams property containing the northern portion of the orchard to the bank of Furnace Brook as part of construction of the Furnace Brook Parkway. In 1952, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts conveyed this parcel back to the park, thus rejoining two parcels and creating the 4.77-acre parcel. The adjacent 3.68-acre Beale property, acquired by the park service in 1972, is not part of the Peace field landscape. A more detailed description of the Peace field

Peace field

Adams National Historical Park

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boundary follows:

Boundaries for the 4.05 acre parcel: Southeasterly on Adams Street 484.39 feet; southwesterly on land now or formerly of Merry E. Pittman and others 489.13 feet; northerly and northwesterly on Furnace Brook Parkway by four lines, 392.69 feet, northerly on the junction of Furnace Brook Parkway and Newport Ave by two lines, 155.43 feet; Northeasterly on Newport Avenue 269.51 feet.

Boundaries for the 0.72 acre parcel: Beginning at a point on the southwesterly side of Newport Avenue at the junction of lands owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Adams Mansion National Historic Site; southwesterly 180.02 feet to a stone bound; westerly 148.35 feet, northwest 28.73 feet, westerly 35.59 feet, northwesterly 90 feet more or less to the top of the southerly bank of Furnace Brook; easterly 365 feet along the top of the southerly bank of Furnace Brook 365 feet to the southwesterly side of Newport Avenue, and southwesterly 60 feet to the point of beginning.

**State and County:**

**State:** MA

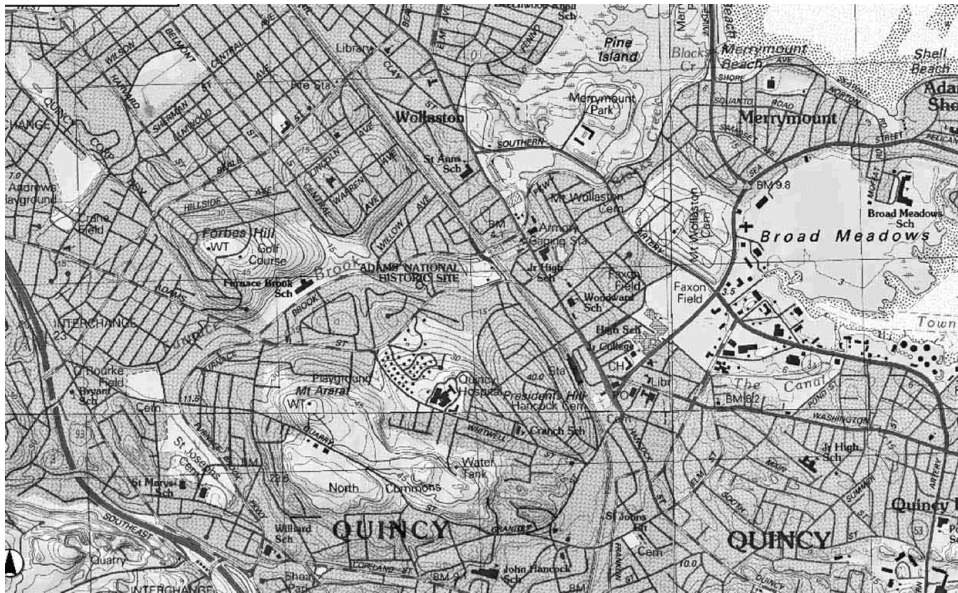
**County:** Norfolk County

**Size (Acres):** 4.77

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Boundary Source Narrative:</b>	National Register documentation, 1980.
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	19
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	334,080
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,680,740

**Location Map:**



*Map of the project site, at center, and surrounding geographic features, including Forbes Hill, Presidents Hill, and Mt. Arrarat. (<http://maps.massgis.state.ma/us?MassGIS3DTopos/viewer.htm>)*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Peace field is located at 135 Adams Street, Quincy, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. Quincy is a part of the Massachusetts coastal lowland at the southern edge of the Boston Basin. The region is covered with glacial deposits and underlain with bedrock known as Cambridge Argillite. The most notable deposits are the many rounded drumlins, including Forbes Hill and Presidents Hill. Water courses flow between these hills, and depressions contain wetlands and ponds. Shallow, slow moving rivers become tidal as they approach Quincy Bay. The site borders the southern bank of Furnace Brook, a small stream which originates about one mile westward and flows into Quincy Bay about one mile eastward of the site (CLR, draft March 2012: 169).

**Management Information**

## General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 09/25/2012

### Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

The Peace field landscape meets the criteria for “Must Be Preserved and Maintained” management category because the preservation of the site was specifically legislated when it was established as Adams Mansion National Historic Site on December 23, 1946. As stated in the enabling legislation, “...the Adams Mansion and grounds at Quincy, Massachusetts...has been recognized by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments as of outstanding national significance” (General Management Plan, December 1996:45).

### NPS Legal Interest:

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

### Public Access:

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

### Explanatory Narrative:

The Peace field grounds are open year round and the buildings are open for public tours from mid April to mid November. Currently, most visitors arrive and depart by trolley for a one hour tour of the property with a focus on the interior of the Old House, thus use of the landscape is limited. The house tour includes a visit to the adjacent stone library, allowing visitors to pass through the flower garden area. The park also hosts numerous special events, many of which are set in the landscape, including concerts, plays, lectures, educational programs, and temporary exhibits.

## Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

### Adjacent Lands Description:

Adjacent lands are those lands outside of the boundaries of the park. The lands to the north, east, and south of the park were once part of the Adams property, but were sold or taken for railroad and road development. A boundary study is recommended to determine whether land owned by the Adams family during the period of significance can be acquired as part of the historical park.

## **National Register Information**

## **Existing National Register Status**

### **National Register Landscape Documentation:**

Entered Documented

### **National Register Explanatory Narrative:**

The Peace field property was designated as Adams Mansion National Historic Site in 1946 and became the Adams National Historic Site in 1952 at the behest of the Adams family. In 1998, Congress re-designated the site as Adams National Historical Park, to reflect the additions of the Beale Estate, birthplaces, and other sites. Peace field was administratively listed under the name Adams National Historic Site in the National Register of Historic Places on October 15, 1966 with the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act. At that time, the listing was not accompanied by any documentation of resources.

On April 4, 1980, the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places accepted documentation for the park, identified as a district with national significance under Criterion A in the areas of literature and politics/government, national significance under Criterion B as the home of four generations of the Adams family, and local significance under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. Two “other” areas of significance were identified for their association with one or more members of the Adams family: the furnishings of the Old House and “the grounds and other structures on the site around [the house].” The period of significance was listed on the documentation form as “1700-1799, 1800-1899, and 1900-x.” Although no specific dates were identified, the text suggests the beginning date as 1731, the year the house was built, and the ending date as 1927, the final year of Adams family occupancy. Specific contributing features described in the documentation for Peace field included the Old House, Library, Carriage House, Flower Garden, Greenhouse, Duck Pond, and Woodshed (wood house).

On November 21, 1994, the Massachusetts Historical Commission (SHPO) concurred with the National Park Service on the itemization of contributing and noncontributing resources in the park, as part of an update to the List of Classified Structures. Within the Peace field site, contributing resources included the Old House, Carriage House, Stone Library, Woodshed, as well as two structures, the Duck Pond and the Greenhouse. The SHPO also identified the following resources as contributing at Peace field: wall system, hitching posts, well and pump, garden paths and formal garden, Brooks Adams doghouse, and the orchard.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the areas and periods of significance for the Peace field site are adequately documented in existing National Register documentation and SHPO determinations, except for local significance under Criterion A in the area of conservation, which should be recognized as an early example of the historic preservation movement in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The existing documentation adequately describes a majority of the site’s historic resources that contribute to its significance, with the exception of several features related to spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, views and vistas, and small-scale features. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Peace field site is considered “Entered-Adequately Documented.”

**Existing NRIS Information:**

**Name in National Register:** Adams National Historic Site

**NRIS Number:** 66000051

**Primary Certification Date:** 04/04/1980

**National Register Eligibility**

**Contributing/Individual:** Individual

**National Register Classification:** District

**Significance Level:** National

**Significance Criteria:** A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

**Significance Criteria:** B - Associated with lives of persons significant in our past

**Significance Criteria:** C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

**Period of Significance:**

<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Shaping the Political Landscape
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860
<b>Facet:</b>	Early Federal Period, 1789-1800
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Shaping the Political Landscape
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860
<b>Facet:</b>	Jeffersonian Period, 1800-1811
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Shaping the Political Landscape
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Political and Military Affairs 1783-1860
<b>Facet:</b>	Post-War Nationalism, 1816-1828
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Literature
<b>Facet:</b>	Novel
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Literature
<b>Facet:</b>	Non-Fiction
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Literature
<b>Facet:</b>	Poetry
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None



<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Transforming the Environment
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Historic Preservation
<b>Facet:</b>	Formation Of The Conservation Movement, 1870-1908
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Transforming the Environment
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Historic Preservation
<b>Facet:</b>	Regional Planning
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Transforming the Environment
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Historic Preservation
<b>Facet:</b>	The Federal Government Enters The Movement
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Facet:</b>	Colonial (1600-1730)
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Landscape Architecture
<b>Facet:</b>	Colonial Revival Landscape Design
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1731 - 1927
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Expressing Cultural Values
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Architecture
<b>Facet:</b>	Colonial (1600-1730)
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None

**Time Period:** AD 1731 - 1927  
**Historic Context Theme:** Expressing Cultural Values  
**Subtheme:** Architecture  
**Facet:** Georgian (1730-1780)  
**Other Facet:** None

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Politics - Government

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Literature

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Conservation

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Landscape Architecture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Architecture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Statement of Significance:**

The Peace field property is significant under National Register of Historic Places criteria A, B, and C. It is nationally significant under Criterion A in the areas of politics/government and literature for the period of 1787–1927, when four generations of the Adams family owned and resided on the property. The property is also significant at the local level in the area of conservation for the period of 1848–1927, encompassing the multigenerational preservation efforts of Charles Francis Adams, Brooks Adams, and the formation of the Adams Memorial Society in 1927. Peace field is significant under

Criterion B at the national level for its association with significant political and literary figures of the eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth centuries, including John and Abigail Adams, John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams, Charles Francis Adams, and Brooks Adams. Peace field is also significant under Criterion C at the local level in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture for its Georgian and Victorian Eclectic Style architecture and its Colonial and Colonial Revival landscape and garden. Finally, the property may be significant under Criterion D at the national level for potential to yield prehistoric and historic archeological resources from the Native American and Colonial periods; however, a determination of archeological significance is beyond the scope of this report. The overall period of significance is 1731-1927, beginning with the construction of the Old House and ending with death of Brooks Adams, the last Adams family member to reside on the property.

#### CRITERION A

##### Politics/Government, 1787–1927:

Peace field is significant at the national level under Criterion A in the area of politics and government for its association with four generations of the Adams family who, over a period of 140 years, played a leading role in the development of the American nation. Distinguished in public service, each generation left its mark on the history of the country and on the property in Quincy. The buildings, furnishings, and landscape contain physical resources that reflect their diplomatic background, literary and historical interests, and connection to the fields of agriculture and horticulture. Not representative of one period, the architecture, furnishings, and landscape show the changing style and taste of the politically prominent occupants from the purchase of the property in 1787 by John and Abigail Adams, to the last full-time family occupant, Brooks Adams in 1927 (CLR, draft March 2012: 200).

##### Literature, 1787-1927:

Peace field is significant at a national level under National Register Criterion A for its association with four generations of the Adams family who created important and lasting works of American literature between 1787 and 1927. John and Abigail Adams, John Quincy Adams, Louisa Catherine Adams, Charles Francis Adams, Henry Adams, and Brooks Adams resided at the Old House during various periods of their lives and penned journals, letters, prose, poetry, and historical accounts.

The period of significance for literature begins in 1787 when John and Abigail Adams purchased the Vassall/Borland estate while in London. At this time, John was working as an American diplomat to the Court of Saint James and writing his book, “A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the U.S. of America.” John Quincy Adams composed numerous essays for publication including “Publicola” and “Marcellus” essays, and his “Lectures on Rhetoric and Oratory” prepared between 1806 and 1809. He penned the poem “The Wants of Man” in 1841 and “Poems of Religion and Society,” which was published in 1853. Louisa Catherine also wrote poetry, letters, essays, and plays, including some for publication and was recognized as an outspoken and prominent member of political society in the nation’s capital.

Charles Francis Adams published “Letters of Mrs. Adams” in 1840, edited the ten-volume Works of John Adams between 1850 and 1856 and the twelve-volume “Memoirs of John Quincy Adams”

between 1874 and 1877. Charles Francis's sons, Henry and Brooks Adams were both writers and historians. These writings provide a literary perspective on the Adams family itself, their relationship to the landscape, and on nineteenth-century America through the early twentieth century. Henry Adams was a frequent visitor to Peace field, but not a permanent resident. After serving as his father's secretary during his father's tenure as ambassador to Great Britain, Henry returned to America and became notable as an academic, a journalist, a novelist, and an historian. Henry Adams is best known for his nine-volume literary masterpiece, "History of the U.S. of America" (1801–1817), and his autobiographical work, "The Education of Henry Adams," for which he received a Pulitzer Prize in 1919. The Peace field property is woven into Henry Adam's narrative as a formative summer residence from which he develops a rich perspective on America in the nineteenth century. The period of significance ends in 1927, with the death of Brooks Adams who also wrote about Peace field and authored several historical books and articles, including "The New Empire" in 1902 and "Theory of Social Revolution" in 1913.

The physical characteristics related to the literary works of the Adamses are associated with the buildings of Peace field, especially the stone library and Old House, as well as elements of the landscape. For example, the many references in the correspondence between John and Abigail Adams concerning their farm, the boxwood plants imported from Europe, and the York and Lancaster roses brought from England; and John Quincy Adams's journal entries detailing his selection and planting of specimen trees in the east lawn.

The cultural landscape conveys its appearance during its occupancy by the different literary figures. Though the views from the property towards the coastline and Boston have been diminished by surrounding development, the most significant features mentioned in their writings still exist (CLR, draft March 2012: 200).

#### Conservation, 1848-1927

The preservation of Peace field is significant at the local level in the area of conservation as an early example of the Historic Preservation Movement of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Upon inheriting the Peace field property in 1848, Charles Francis Adams adopted a preservation approach for the home and landscape of two U.S. Presidents. Charles Francis also instilled a historic preservation ethic in his son, Brooks Adams, who ensured the long term preservation of the Adams property throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The establishment of the Adams Memorial Society in 1927 by the descendents of Charles Francis Adams ensured the ongoing preservation, and ultimately its designation as a national historic site.

The Adams preservation efforts mirrored late nineteenth and early twentieth century trends in the historic preservation movement. Nineteenth century organizations were formed by family groups and small private preservation associations. The earliest precursor to the movement was the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Formed in 1853 to preserve the estate of the nation's first President George Washington, the group is recognized as the oldest national historic preservation organization in the country. Their efforts emphasized the memorial aspects of the property as a symbol of American patriotism. A broader historic preservation movement commenced in the late 1800s and emphasized

America's cultural legacy, by preserving the homes and studios of artists and writers. For example, the Longfellow Memorial Association in Cambridge, Massachusetts formed in 1882, the year of poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's death. The Louisa May Alcott Memorial Association formed in 1911, twenty-three years after the writer's death, to preserve the Orchard House in Concord, Massachusetts. The Saint-Gaudens Memorial formed in 1919 to preserve the property and works of artist Augustus Saint-Gaudens who died in 1907.

The Adams property was one of several presidential sites throughout the country that were preserved in the early 1900s. As noted above, the preservation of President Washington's Mount Vernon was the earliest preservation of a presidential property. A half century later in Kentucky, the Lincoln Farm Association was formed in 1906 to preserve the birth site and cabin of Abraham Lincoln, the country's sixteenth President. In New Hampshire, the descendents of Franklin Pierce, the nation's fourteenth President, passed his home to the state, which subsequently collaborated with the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs to restore the home and open it to the public. Unlike these efforts, the direct descendents of Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams, notably Charles Francis Adams and Brooks Adams, played a key role in the preservation effort.

The federal government took an active role in historic preservation in the early 1900s. The lobbying efforts of preservationists resulted in passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966. In 1924 the National Capital Park and Planning Commission attempted to save the houses of Henry Adams and former Secretary of State John Hay from redevelopment in Washington, D.C. Efforts were unsuccessful and the homes were torn down for a hotel. Yet, the demolition prompted a greater focus on preserving historic structures both within the National Capital area and across the country. In the ensuing decade presidential homes and memorials were added to the national park system, beginning a trend that would increase throughout the century. The Thomas Jefferson Memorial in Washington was authorized in 1934 to commemorate the nation's third President and completed nine years later. The house of Andrew Johnson, the country's seventeenth President, located in Greeneville, Tennessee was acquired by the National Park Service in 1935. The home of Franklin D. Roosevelt, the nation's thirty-second President, located in Hyde Park, New York was designated a national historic site in 1944, while he was still President, and was donated after his death a year later. The designation of the Adams property as a national historic site followed in 1946.

The Adams property retains the family home, adjacent buildings, landscape features, furnishings, and papers, which convey a commitment to historic preservation beginning in 1826 with the death of John Adams and inheritance by John Quincy Adams. This preservation ethic carried through the long tenure by Charles Francis, who inherited the property upon his father's death in 1848, and through his descendents in the late 1800s, who expressed an obligation to preserve the family homestead and pass it on to the next generation. Brooks Adams, the principal resident of Peace field between 1886 and 1927, sought to preserve, and to an extent restore, certain physical characteristics of the site. Physical evidence of his preservation efforts include restoring the flower plantings in the garden to resemble those installed by his mother; removing the east portico and thus restoring the façade of the east end of Old House almost to its original appearance; restoring the paneled mahogany room and other house

furnishings; and locating and replacing flagstones in the front entry-way, thereby restoring its appearance to that of the late 1700s.

Following the death of Brooks Adams in 1927, the property was managed by the Adams Memorial Society, formed in 1927 by the surviving heirs of Charles Francis Adams, whose efforts were almost entirely devoted to preservation with the distinct mission to “foster civic virtue and patriotism.” The society retained ownership until 1946 when they donated the site and its collections to the National Park Service. The Society continues to advise the park in preservation of the site.

The preservation efforts of multiple generations of the Adams family were part of a larger movement in the early twentieth century and ultimately led to the designation of the property as a national historic site in 1946 and in subsequent years, the preservation of multiple sites associated with the Adams family within the Adams National Historical Park (CLR, draft March 2012: 204).

## CRITERION B

### Association with John Adams:

Peace field is significant under Criterion B at the national level for its association with John Adams, a significant political and literary figure of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. John Adams served as Vice President of the U.S. from 1789 to 1797 and President of the U.S. from 1797 to 1801. He and Abigail purchased the Old House property in 1787 as their year-round residence. The property included approximately ninety-five acres of associated land to the north and south of the house, most of which was under cultivation or used for grazing livestock. John and Abigail Adams acquired additional land in the early 1800s, expanding their landholdings to approximately 600 acres.

Adams’ primary association with the Peace field landscape was as a working New England farm. The landscape immediately surrounding the Old House contained a garden filled with fruit trees and flowers, a kitchen garden, assorted vegetable plots located on the sites of the current stone library and lower meadow, grass plots at the entrance of the house, a small pond, woodshed, and barns.

The site retains many of the physical features associated with the John Adams period of ownership including the house, woodshed, entry space in front of the house, framework of the garden, and small-scale features such as the weathervane (CLR, draft March 2012: 204).

### Association with Abigail Adams:

Peace field is significant under Criterion B at the national level for its association with First Lady Abigail Adams, who was a significant political and literary figure of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. Abigail Adams was the wife of John Adams, who served as the country’s first Vice President and second President, and mother of John Quincy Adams, the country’s sixth president. Abigail was a prolific writer, sending detailed correspondence to her husband John and other friends including Thomas Jefferson that detailed life in late eighteenth and early nineteenth century America.

Abigail’s primary association with the landscape was with the area around the house, including the

## Peace field

### Adams National Historical Park

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garden and the front entry. In addition to overseeing the management of the garden and fruit trees, she planted ornamental trees, shrubs, roses, and flowers around the house. Most notably, Abigail expanded the front of the house, added a front portico, and enhanced the entry space by adding a second door and corresponding walkway. She also oversaw the construction of several farm outbuildings in 1799 to 1800, of which only the woodshed remains. Some of the plants introduced to the property by Abigail remain including the lilacs along the front walk, sweet bay magnolias, wisteria vine, and York rose (CLR, draft March 2012: 204).

#### Association with John Quincy Adams:

Peace field is significant under Criterion B at the national level for its association with John Quincy Adams, the nation's sixth President from 1825 to 1829, who also served in the Senate and the House of Representatives, where he spoke out forcefully against slavery and in favor of a strong federal government. John Quincy and his wife, Louisa Catherine Adams made Peace field their summer home from 1826 to 1848. John Quincy was seven years old when the American Revolution began. His mother, Abigail Adams, took him up to the summit of a nearby hill to see the burning of Charlestown. From the age of fourteen until his death at eighty-one years, John Quincy, a child of the American Revolution, served his country.

John Quincy was an avid horticulturist and in the early 1800s began planting trees on the Peace field property. By the 1840s his tree nursery beds filled the area to the west and north of the flower garden and extended around the house. Most notable was an area east of the house known as the tree seminary, which included over sixty tree seedlings.

Features that remain from the John Quincy and Louisa Catherine period of ownership include the yellowwood tree, black walnut tree, and possibly a mature elm by the duck pond. Most of the trees planted by John Quincy were transplanted by his son Charles Francis to other parcels owned by the family. A collection of trees, including beech, hickory, and oak, still surrounds the New House that Charles Francis built on Presidents Hill in 1836 (CLR, draft March 2012: 205).

#### Association with Louisa Catherine Adams:

Peace field is significant under Criterion B at the national level for its association with First Lady Louisa Catherine Adams, who was a significant female political and literary figure of the nineteenth century. She was the wife of John Quincy Adams, who served as sixth President of the U.S. from 1825 to 1829. The daughter of a skilled writer, Louisa Catherine composed poems, essays, and plays, and was a talented musician and dancer. As the wife of a statesman, her frequent correspondence captures the contrasts in lifestyle between Quincy, Massachusetts and Washington, D.C., and Europe. Louisa Catherine traveled with John Quincy to Prussia, Russia, France, and England where John Quincy proved his diplomatic skills and Louisa Catherine applied her social skills. She proved her skills went far beyond social when she undertook a six-week winter journey from Russia to Ghent where John Quincy was negotiating the treaty ending the War of 1812. Accompanied by only her young child and a few servants, Louisa passed through fields littered with corpses left by the final phase of the Napoleonic Wars. This journey was considered impossible for a woman and she later wrote that her trek had disproved the "fancied weakness of female imbecility" (General Management Plan 1996).

While demonstrating great resiliency and confidence in her role as the wife of a statesman, in Quincy she was candid about her lack of familiarity of farm life, where she learned to milk a cow and raise chickens.

During her time abroad with John Quincy, she was separated from her two eldest sons for eight years, a sacrifice she greatly regretted. With their return to Quincy, the Old House symbolized reunion and reconnection of the family. She often spent time in Quincy without John Quincy, where she particularly enjoyed fishing. Likewise, after the premature death of her two eldest sons, she spent time in Quincy with her grandchildren.

Like Abigail, Louisa Catherine's primary association with the landscape was with the area around the house, particularly the garden. Her grandson Henry Adams recalled that she spent a great deal of time gazing out of the window of the house at the flower garden. After the death of her oldest son, family lore notes that she and John Quincy brought the yellowwood tree from Meridian Hill in Washington, D.C. and planted it in the garden in his memory in 1830. Louisa Catherine also reintroduced chickens to the farmyard, though was not immersed in property management to the same degree as her mother-in-law, Abigail.

Features attributed to Louisa Catherine and John Quincy that are still evident are the garden, yellowwood tree, large walnut tree at the northwest corner of the garden, and the elms, of which there is one remaining and several replacements (CLR, draft March 2012: 206).

#### Association with Charles Francis Adams:

Peace field is significant under Criterion B at the national level for its association with Charles Francis Adams, who managed the property for his father, John Quincy, and took over ownership from the time of his father's death in 1848 until his own death in 1886.

Charles Francis Adams was elected to the House of Representatives in 1858, but resigned to accept an appointment by President Lincoln to serve as our ambassador to Great Britain during the Civil War. He is credited with persuading the British to remain neutral and not recognize the Confederacy's sovereignty. Upon his return to the U.S., he constructed the nation's first presidential library, the stone library at Peace field, to honor his father and house his books and presidential papers.

Physical changes carried out at Peace field by Charles Francis include expansion of the Old House, construction of the stone library and carriage house, and relocation of the woodshed. Additional modification include the flower garden beds, which were renovated by Charles Francis's wife, Abigail Brooks Adams, relocation of the York rose, reconstruction of the stone walls around the property, and the planting of numerous shade trees in the east lawn and along the slopes between the driveway and lower meadow (CLR, draft March 2012: 206).

#### CRITERION C

##### Landscape Architecture—Colonial and Colonial Revival Styles:



The landscape, and in particular the garden, at Peace field is significant at a local level under National Register Criterion C for its overall landscape design dating to the colonial period and represents an early colonial estate of a wealthy landowner. Constructed in 1731, the estate was part of the original Vassall/Borland estate and the garden west of the house included varieties of European fruit trees planted in the squared plots as was the practice of this time. Fruit gardens were grown principally to provide edible table fruits versus orchards, which contained apples for hard cider. It is likely that a variety of fruit trees, including apple, pear, peach, plum, and cherry, were in organized rows and fenced and/or walled with an ornamental enclosure. Although no illustrations have been found of the estate during the Vassall/Borland period, a mid nineteenth century photograph depicts the corner of the garden and shows fruit trees spaced at about ten feet apart and a combined stone and post and rail fence along the edge of the garden.

The location and layout of the garden are still reflective of the colonial period, however the materials and setting have changed. In the mid-nineteenth century, Charles Francis sited the stone library in the garden and removed the fruit trees. His wife Abigail Brooks is credited with transitioning the beds from a mix of flowers, vegetables, and herbs to solely annual and perennial flowers, thus creating a Colonial Revival style garden. However, the overall layout of the garden plots, gravel paths, and boxwood edging remained, preserving the colonial framework of the garden.

When Brooks Adams became the steward of the property in the late 1800s, he implemented improvements with a restoration approach. In the house, he removed Victorian décor and brought back colonial era furnishings and wallpaper. He also removed the decorative porch on the east side of the house. He did not however, restore the garden to a mix of fruit trees and vegetables, but instead preserved the flower beds and flowering shrubs installed by his parents, as well as the yellowwood tree.

The appearance of the property in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century can be described as multi-generational preservation of a colonial estate and as an example of Colonial Revival, reflecting a nostalgic reflection of the earlier period. As both a Colonial and a Colonial Revival estate, the property retains sufficient integrity to contribute the historical character of the property (CLR, draft March 2012: 207).

#### Architecture—Georgian and Victorian Eclectic Styles:

The Old House, especially the original structure, is significant under Criterion C at the local level as an early example of Georgian architecture in America. The original portion of the residence was constructed in 1731 by the Vassalls, who owned the property before John Adams. Originating in England, the Georgian style is marked by several distinctive features: a simple, rectangular plan, two stories with an attic, strict symmetry, a centered front door framed and capped by elaborate carved columns and moldings, decorative cornice-work, and multi-paned windows arranged symmetrically and spaced singly, rather than paired. Subsequent modifications and additions were generally conformed to the Georgian style.

The stone library built in 1869–70 and carriage house built in 1873–74 are notable examples of Victorian Eclectic architecture, with details characteristic of Gothic, English, and Norman architecture, which

were integrated into the existing Adams estate landscape. The stone library, designed by Boston architect Edward Clark Cabot, was characterized by the use of brick and stone, brick quoins, and the front door accented with massive stone brackets. The carriage house, designed by the Boston architectural firm of Cummings and Sears, featured the use of granite, fieldstone, and decorative brick banding. The building includes a central tower with spire, of Norman influence, as well as wide eaves with Gothic quatrefoil carving.

Edward Clark Cabot came from an influential family and became a prominent architect as well as painter. He gained recognition after designing a new building for the Boston Athenaeum between 1847 and 1849. Thereafter he designed many private residences in Boston's Back Bay as well as the Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland. From 1867 to 1896, Cabot served as the first president of the Boston Society of Architects, of which he was a founder. Also an artist, Cabot painted landscapes and still lifes, mostly in watercolor.

Charles Amos Cummings (1833–1906) and Willard T. Sears (1837–1920) were two prominent New England architects that worked in the Gothic Revival and Renaissance Revival styles. Cummings also designed the Stone Chapel at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, the Old South Church in Boston's Copley Square, and the Cyclorama in Boston, which was built to display an enormous painting of the Battle of Gettysburg. Cummings also served as the president of the Boston Society of Architects for five years from 1896 to 1901. Sears designed the Pilgrim Monument in Provincetown, Massachusetts in 1898. The three notable examples of architecture, the Old House, stone library, and carriage house retain their historical integrity (CLR, draft March 2012: 209).

## State Register Information

<b>Identification Number:</b>	QUIAE
<b>Date Listed:</b>	12/21/1989
<b>Name:</b>	Adams National Historic Site Complex

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

<b>Cultural Landscape Type:</b>	Designed Historic Site
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### Current and Historic Use/Function:

<b>Primary Historic Function:</b>	Estate Landscape
<b>Primary Current Use:</b>	Leisure-Passive (Park)

**Other Use/Function**

Farm (Plantation)

Garden

Ornamental Garden

Formal Garden

**Other Type of Use or Function**

Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

**Current and Historic Names:****Name**

Adams National Historical Park

Peace field

Adams Mansion National Historic Site

Adams National Historic Site

Peacefield

**Type of Name**

Current

Current

Historic

Historic

Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:**

No Survey Conducted

**Chronology:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Annotation</b>
AD 1635	Established	Massachusetts Bay Colony grants tracts of land to Edmund Quincy and William Coddington.
AD 1639	Purchased/Sold	Boston merchant William Tyng purchases a large portion of the Coddington property, and divides it into two farms.
AD 1647 - 1662	Purchased/Sold	John Gurney leases 45 acres of Tyng's land.
AD 1710	Purchased/Sold	Nathaniel Spear listed as owner of property.
AD 1717	Purchased/Sold	Thomas Crosby purchases several tracts of Nathaniel Spear's land, including Peace field property.
	Built	Thomas Crosby builds simple farm house, barn, and corn house.
AD 1730	Purchased/Sold	Major Leonard Vassall buys 10 acres from Thomas Crosby.

Peace field  
Adams National Historical Park

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AD 1731	Planted	Vassall creates a fruit tree orchard within rectangular garden beds edged in boxwood.
	Built	Vassall constructs a mansion that would be known as the Old House, along with a farmhouse to the north of mansion with kitchen and quarters for slaves and servants.
AD 1737	Land Transfer	Vassall dies and wills property to wife.
AD 1749	Land Transfer	Vassall's daughter, Phoebe, marries John Borland and inherits the house and property.
AD 1750	Built	3-story wing added to north of Old House.
AD 1760	Built	Kitchen expanded.
AD 1775 - 1783	Inhabited	Anna Borland, John and Phoebe Borland's daughter, flees to England during American Revolution. Various tenants and refugees occupy house.
AD 1783	Purchased/Sold	Royall Tyler purchases property from Anna's son, John Vassall Borland.
AD 1786	Built	Tyler erects a small building for an office behind the house, as well as a windmill.
AD 1787	Land Transfer	Tyler forfeits farm back to the Borlands.
	Purchased/Sold	John Adams buys property from Leonard Vassall Borland.
	Rehabilitated	Cotton Tufts oversees extensive repairs to house.
AD 1788	Planted	Abigail Adams plants vegetables in garden beds and a mix of flowers, roses, shrubs, and trees in the front yard.
	Ranched/Grazed	John Adams purchases oxen, sheep, and cows.

Peace field  
Adams National Historical Park

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AD 1793	Built	Adams constructs a corn crib north of the house.
AD 1796	Established	Adams begins to refer to his property as “Peace field” or “Peacefield.”
	Planted	Adams clears meadow north of garden and plants corn.
AD 1797 - 1799	Altered	Old farmhouse expanded to include an office and library for Adams.
AD 1799	Built	Adams removes old Borland barn and builds a new barn, stable, and woodshed.
AD 1797 - 1799	Built	Cider house and additional barn built.
AD 1800	Planted	Abigail plants sweet bay magnolias and tree peonies in the garden, and Lombardy poplars on the Beale-Adams property line.
	Built	Abigail adds a covered portico to the front of the house as well as a new entrance door with walk.
	Expanded	New, spacious east wing added to house.
	Expanded	Front yard expanded.
	Moved	Side fence moved to accommodate expansion of Old House and front yard.
AD 1804	Planted	John Adams plants new orchard northwest of house.
AD 1820 - 1821	Built	John Adams digs out a small pond in meadow north of the house.
AD 1826	Land Transfer	John Adams dies; his son, John Quincy Adams, inherits Old House and property.

Peace field  
Adams National Historical Park

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	Planted	John Quincy creates small tree nursery on west end of garden and plants new trees throughout Peace field.
AD 1828	Altered	Charles Francis Adams converts drying yard on north side of house into an experimental tree growing area.
AD 1829	Altered	Kitchen modernized.
AD 1831	Built	Charles Francis installs new fences with stone posts and square granite caps.
	Planted	Charles Francis clears rosebushes from front entrance and replaces with English oaks and elms.
AD 1833	Moved	John Quincy moves one of his father's barns from President's Hill to the farmyard.
AD 1834	Built	John Quincy creates "the Seminary" for seedling trees to the east of the house.
AD 1835	Planted	John Quincy lays out border of flowers along house's east side
AD 1843	Removed	John Kirk removes fencing between north side of garden and orchard.
AD 1844	Built	Old Colony Line built through Adams property, cutting off strip of land east of the house.
AD 1846	Removed	Barn built by John Adams removed due to fear of fire from nearby trains.
AD 1848	Land Transfer	John Quincy Adams dies; Charles Francis inherits and moves into Peace field.
AD 1848 - 1852	Built	Charles Francis rebuilds and extends stone wall around property.
AD 1850	Planted	Abigail Brooks Adams plants flowerbeds along interior of new granite wall.
	Built	Charles Francis installs underground drainage system in north meadow.

AD 1851	Planted	Turnips planted in reclaimed field north of house.
	Built	Charles Francis regrades area between house and barns.
	Altered	Charles Francis converts tree nursery and “seminary” into flowerbeds and open lawn.
AD 1852	Built	Charles Francis adds portico to east side of house, requiring removal of flower beds.
AD 1853	Built	Charles Francis builds an ice house and a new barn in southeast corner of property.
AD 1855	Altered	Charles Francis replaces front portico of house with more elaborate one.
AD 1869	Built	Charles Francis adds new servants’ wing to north side of house.
	Removed	Charles Francis removes vegetable portion of garden.
	Removed	Charles Francis dismantles old farmhouse.
AD 1869 - 1870	Built	Charles Francis builds stone library.
AD 1870	Altered	Charles Francis replaced old wooden fence atop front entry wall along Adams Street with a lattice-type one.
AD 1871	Planted	Charles Francis plants trees in farmhouse’s former location and in the north meadow.
AD 1872 - 1873	Built	Newport Avenue built, removing a 50-foot strip of land from eastern side of property.
AD 1873	Removed	Cider barn, corn crib, and ice house removed to make way for Newport Avenue.
AD 1873 - 1874	Built	Charles Francis constructs Victorian stone and brick carriage house and stables alongside Newport Avenue.

Peace field

Adams National Historical Park

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AD 1874	Moved	Charles Francis moves woodshed next to carriage house.
AD 1886	Land Transfer	Charles Francis Adams dies; land goes to Adams Family Real Estate Trust.
AD 1890	Moved	Evelyn Brooks Adams moves Abigail Adams' York rose to north side of garden.
AD 1905	Built	Brooks builds doghouse for his Scottish terriers.
AD 1906	Built	Brooks replaces front gate and fence with new brick wall and wooden gates topped with ornamental urns.
AD 1910	Removed	Brooks fills in duck pond.
AD 1916	Built	Brooks builds cement two-car garage below carriage house.
AD 1920	Removed	Brooks removes east portico on Old House.
	Planted	Evelyn Brooks Adams plants ferns on either side of front gate and along the front piazza. Replaces tulips and nasturtiums in front piazza with lawn.
AD 1904 - 1916	Built	Furnace Brook Parkway built through north meadow of Peace field, dividing estate and rerouting Furnace Brook.
AD 1927	Land Transfer	Adams Memorial Society acquires property after Brooks Adams passes.
AD 1927 - 1930	Purchased/Sold	Land north of Furnace Brook Parkway sold and subdivided for development.
AD 1936	Platted	Peace field house and grounds surveyed by Historic American Buildings Survey program.
AD 1938	Destroyed	Hurricane destroys several trees.



Peace field

Adams National Historical Park

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AD 1946	Established	Adams family donates property to U.S. Government, which designates it as Adams Mansion National Historic Site.
AD 1951	Demolished	Brooks Adams' garage taken down.
AD 1952	Planted	New trees planted in orchard to fill in gaps.
	Land Transfer	Metropolitan District Commission donates parcel of land alongside Furnace Brook Parkway.
AD 1964	Restored	National Park Service excavates duck pond.
AD 1965	Built	National Park Service constructs boundary wall along property line on Newport Avenue.
AD 1971	Built	MBTA builds Redline tracks alongside former Old Colony Line tracks.
AD 1972	Expanded	Neighboring Beale property added to the Adams National Historic Site.
AD 1980	Reconstructed	National Park Service rebuilds doghouse.
AD 1980 - 2012	Planted	National Park Service plants daffodils in orchard.

**Physical History:**

The following section provides information on the physical development and evolution of the site, organized by time periods. Much of the information is extracted from the March 2012 draft of the “Cultural Landscape Report for Peace field, Adams National Historical Park.”

**CONTACT TO 1634**

The Adams National Historical Park is located at the southern edge of the geologic and physiographic area known as the Boston Basin. The basin is bounded by the granitic upland of the Lynn Fells to the north, the Wellesley Hills to the west, and the Blue Hills to the south, which rise approximately two miles west of the park. The receding North American Laurentide ice sheet left three topographic features in the Quincy region about 12,000 years ago—ground moraines, terminal moraines, and drumlins consisting of large mounds or hills of glacial till. The warming climate and melting ice also raised ocean levels, inundating the Boston Basin, isolating the tops of some of the deposits as islands, and flooding the local drainage system composed of the Charles, Mystic, and Neponset rivers. The resulting coastline extends around drumloid hills such as Squantum and Hough’s Neck and reaches inland to marshes and lowlands at the mouth of Black’s Creek and Town River. Quincy Center is located on an elevated plain, or ground moraine, dominated by two drumlins, Forbes Hill and Presidents Hill, also known as Stonyfield Hill. The remainder of the city, west of Penn’s Hill and Mount Arrarat, rises through foothills to the granitic Blue Hills. The city’s two main streams, the Furnace and Town brooks, flow out of the Blue Hills on opposite sides of Presidents Hill and reach Quincy Bay on either side of Hough’s Neck (Massachusetts Historical Commission, 1981: 2).

The first people to inhabit the Massachusetts area arrived over 10,000 years ago. Paleo-Indians lived in small bands that followed the migrating routes of large animals. The Paleo-Indian period was followed by the Archaic and Woodland periods, during which Native Americans transitioned from hunting large game to trapping smaller game, to an increasing dependency on fishing, and eventually agricultural cultivation. When the first European colonists arrived in the early 1600s, there were over 30,000 Native Americans in Massachusetts organized in distinct tribes, including the Wampanoag, Pennacook, Mahican, Pocumtuck, Nipmuck, as well as the Massachusett. In the Quincy area, a hill by the Neponset River near what is now Squantum, north of the project site, was the seat of the ruling Massachusett sachem, or leader, Chickatawbut. (Lasserini, 2006; Quincy Historical and Architectural Survey, 1986). Beginning in 1616, diseases transmitted from Europe, particularly smallpox and measles, decimated the Native American population (Schultz and Tougia, 1999: 14; Herbster: 20).

The area that became Quincy was located along an important regional corridor, the Boston to Plymouth Highway, which was a trail prior to 1630. The route to the South Shore ran from Boston through Milton to the Monaquot River in Braintree passing through Quincy along what is now Adams Street, Hancock Street, School Street, and Franklin Street, and crossing the Furnace and Town brooks. The route passed by the future site of the Adams’ Peace field property and continued southeast through Quincy Center and by the parcels where the Adams’ birthplaces are located.

A brief flurry of settlement occurred with the arrival of the first Europeans in Mount Wollaston in 1625; however, Boston became the main port with its deeper shipping channel. As the Boston settlement grew and fertile land became scarce, the Quincy area attracted more settlers, and was annexed to Boston in 1634, along with the towns of Braintree, Randolph, and Holbrook (Lyons, 1983:12-13).

#### VASSALL/BORLAND PERIOD, 1634–1787

Documentation of the ownership history of the future Peace field property began in the 1630s at the outset of the colonial period with the disbursement of the earliest land grants by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Colony granted individual tracts of 600 or more acres to Boston residents Edmund Quincy, Atherton Houghton, John Wilson, and William Coddington. The Peace field property was part of the Quincy-Coddington Grant of 1635, which included twenty-six miles of shoreline property throughout Braintree and extended inland as far as Stonyfield Hill, now known as Presidents Hill. The combined land grant of over one thousand acres was divided between Edmund Quincy and William Coddington, who had formed a partnership in 1628 and already acquired land in the area from the sachem Chickatawbut (Lacy, 1997: 1; Waters, 1884: 120; Harris, 1966-1968: 815-817; New England Historical and Genealogical Register: 120-121).

By 1641 the future Peace field property was under the ownership of wealthy Boston merchant William Tyng, who had purchased a large part of the Coddington property following Edmund Quincy's death and William Coddington's subsequent banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for his religious beliefs. Tyng's property stretched over Stonyfield Hill and what is present day Quincy Center—from the cemetery up to present day Adams Street and included the Peace field property. Dividing his property into two farms, Tyng leased one farm to John Gurney in 1647 for a fifteen-year period. The northern portion of Gurney's farm contained the Peace field property, which was a triangular wedge-shaped area north of Stonyfield Hill and the Old Road to Boston. Tyng died in 1653 and Gurney continued to lease his farm from Tyng's daughters Bethia and Mercy until 1662 (Harris 815-817; Lacy 1-4).

By 1710 the Peace field property was owned by Nathaniel Spear, a Braintree cooper. Spear sold his homestead with ten acres of land to innkeeper Thomas Crosby in 1717 and an additional parcel of land to Crosby in 1719. The 1717 deed listed the property as containing, "a dwelling house, barn, and corn house." The construction date of the original house is unknown. The road formed the southern border of the property, establishing the relationship of the private house in close proximity and facing the public road. In March 1730 Crosby sold the homestead with eleven and a half acres of land north of the road and five and a half acres of land south of the road, over Stonyfield, to Leonard Vassall, who planned to transform the farm into a country estate for his large family (Lacy 1-4; Harris 815-817).

Leonard Vassall was born in 1678 in Jamaica to a wealthy English sugar planting family. In 1700, Leonard married Ruth Gale and in the early 1720s the couple moved their growing family to Boston to join other Vassall relatives. In 1727, the Vassalls built a large house on Summer Street in Boston. Shortly after completing construction of his elegant Boston residence, Vassall

acquired several parcels of land in Braintree, including seventeen acres of land from innkeeper Thomas Crosby in March 1730. In March 1731, Vassall petitioned the town of Braintree for permission to alter the “road against his house for his conveniency” and upon receiving approval, Vassall moved the Boston to Plymouth Highway, also known as the Old Road to Boston (now Adams Street), further away from his house and property. The condition and existence of the 1717 house, barn, and corn house in Vassall’s 1730 purchase is not known. The building of Vassall’s Braintree house (Old House) occurred sometime between 1730 and 1732—the exact date is not clearly documented. The House is generally referred to as being built in 1731, the date when Vassall petitioned the town of Braintree to move the country road located next to his house.

Vassall’s country residence in Braintree also included an orchard within a garden, known as a fruit garden, which was similar in design and layout to his Boston house. Located west of the house, rectangular beds were edged in boxwood imported from England and set off by gravel paths. The rectangular garden beds were filled with a variety of fruits including grapes, raspberries, currants, pears, peaches, apples, and cherry trees. A summer house stood at the west end of the garden. Under Vassall’s ownership, the property evolved from a simple New England homestead into the grounds of a prosperous residential estate. Vassall’s improvements contributed to the evolution of this area of Braintree into a popular location for eighteenth and nineteenth century country estates for families including the Quincys, Hancocks, Cranches, Adamses, and Beales (Amory, 1872:10-15; Randolph, 1886: 142-143; Wren, 1-2; Skeen, 1965: 3-4, 46-47).

John Vassall’s daughter, Anna, inherited the Braintree property in 1738 when she was three years old (Suffolk Probate Records, 33:210). In 1749 Anna married John Borland and the couple set up permanent residence in the Vassall’s Braintree estate. At the time, the Braintree site is listed in property documents as containing ninety-three acres of land (Lacy, 1997: 5). A 1716 statement of taxable property for the estate of John Borland lists the house and garden, with eight acres of pasture, twenty acres of grass, and all remaining property leased.

John Borland died in June 1775, at the outset of the American Revolution and Anna—an English loyalist—fled to Bristol, England with her three children. The Braintree estate became temporary quarters for Patriot refugees fleeing from the British in Boston. During the war, the government confiscated and leased out the Braintree property to prevent destruction and to provide a needed source of revenue for the state (Lacy, 1997: 5-6).

Richard Cranch, Abigail Adams’ brother-in-law and a representative in the Braintree legislature, was appointed agent for the estate in 1779. His inventory listed the property as “A Dwelling house, Outhouses, Stables, Garden and Farm situated in Braintree containing forty-five acres of Pasture, Tillage, Mow and Plowland” (Harris, 1966: 817-819). The following year at the March town meeting, the Braintree legislature expressed concern about the vacant estate held a public auction on April 28, 1780. The town leased the property to Edward Church until Anna Borland and her children returned from England in 1783 and recovered the estate. Anna conveyed the Braintree estate to her son, Leonard Vassall Borland in November 1783, and Borland quickly sold the house and farm to Boston lawyer Royall Tyler

for £1,000 in December. In the four years that he owned the site, Tyler added a windmill and expanded the farmhouse. He forfeited the property in 1787 and the site fell into disrepair (Figure 1) (Harris, 1966: 817-819; Skeen, 1965: 56-58).

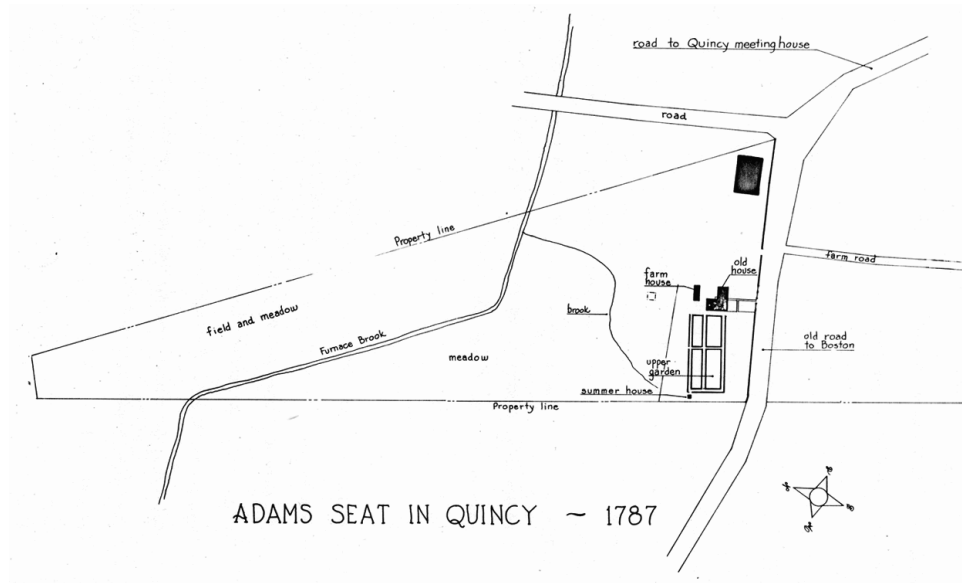


Figure 1. Map depicting the Peacefield property in 1787, including the garden west of the house and fields and meadows to the north by Furnace Brook. (*Furnishings Report of the Old House, Adams National Historic Site, 71*)

#### JOHN AND ABIGAIL ADAMS, 1787–1826

John Adams' family arrived in New England in 1638 as part of the great Puritan migration, and settled in Braintree. John Adams (JA) was born in 1735 in a small saltbox house and from an early age developed an interest in farming, but studied law at Harvard College. He met Abigail Smith, the daughter of a clergyman, in 1759. They married in 1764 and moved into a small house adjacent to his childhood home. The couple would go on to have five children, two of whom—Abigail “Nabby” and John Quincy—would have significant roles in family affairs (McCullough, 2001: 29-34).

JA pursued a distinguished career in politics, and both he and Abigail (AA) were prolific writers. In the years leading up to and during the American Revolution, Adams served the Colonial cause in the Massachusetts General Court, the Continental Congress, and as a negotiator in France and England. In 1787, the newly-formed U.S. Congress called John Adams back to New England. Rather than return to their small home, JA and AA purchased the Borland estate, which they felt would make a suitable residence for an American diplomat recently returned from European service (Freiberg, 1986: 61). Furthermore, the Borland estate allowed JA to pursue his passion for farming. The property included a seven and one-half acre house lot with eleven acres of farmland to the north of the road from Boston to Plymouth and additional acreage to the south (see Figure 1). The tax assessor's 1788 property listing indicates a total of 99 acres of land including the house, farmhouse, Borland barn and corncrib, and two

additional barns south of the Boston to Plymouth Road. Adams also retained the family homes and farmland. JA's rural lifestyle contrasted sharply with many of his contemporaries who commuted between city townhouses and landscape country estates (Lacy, 1997: 12; Peterson, 21). JA and AA ran their property as a productive agricultural operation, rather than an elegant country seat. They raised livestock, grew corn, and made apple cider. JA would work alongside farmhands, while AA oversaw improvements to the buildings and vegetable garden. JA's political duties, though, kept them away from the property for long periods of time, and they relied on relatives and tenant farmers to care for the house and farm operations.

When JA was born, the town of Quincy was still known as the north precinct of Braintree. In 1792, Quincy became a separate town, named after Colonel John Quincy, AA's maternal grandfather. At that point, Quincy had 900 people, composed of less than 200 families. Throughout the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, agriculture was the primary economic activity, though granite quarrying began to grow in the mid-1800s.

#### Pre-Presidential Years:

Before even arriving at Peace field, AA began preparations by writing to her uncle, Cotton Tufts, instructing him on the house's paint, wallpaper, and furniture. One of the first changes JA and AA made to the Borland house was to cut windows into the west wall on the first floor, overlooking the garden, which let more light into the dim house and provided a view of garden (Wren, 13). After moving into the new estate, AA began improving the garden areas directly west of, and in front of the house. In the front yard—formerly a traditional early colonial-era yard—she installed ornamental plantings, embellishing the small area with an assortment of flowers, roses, shrubs, and trees. While in England, AA purchased two varieties of roses, *Rosa x alba*, a simple white, single-petal rose that the family called the York rose, and *Rosa officinalis* 'Gallia,' a red rose she referred to as the Lancaster rose. Before the end of 1788 she had manure spread within the small area and planted "little grass plots. Flowers such as daffodils, four o'clocks, nasturtiums, columbine, larkspur, foxglove, and the red and white roses were planted along the south-facing front of the house. Also, AA likely introduced plum trees to the front yard (Skeen, 1965: 50-53; Harris, 1983, 48-50).

A painting depicts a white picket fence with a center gate was located along the road and a short walkway led up to the front door of the house. AA planted lilac shrubs and althea trees on each side of the walkway and at least one horsechestnut tree at the wooden gate along the street (Harris, 48-50).

In the spring of 1789, AA improved the flower garden to the west of the house, moving and resetting the boxwood hedges to enlarge the Vassall-Borland garden and create space for additional fruit trees. The rectangular garden beds, surrounded by gravel paths, were mainly filled with fruit trees, except for the northeast plot that contained AA's kitchen garden. A daguerreotype from the mid 1800s shows mature fruit trees between the garden beds and the boundary wall, suggesting that the southern edge of the flower garden was also planted with fruit trees in the early 1800s. Fruit trees included: Russet and Rhode Island Greenings apple, plum, peach, Saint Germain and Saint Michael's pear, apricot, quince, and mazzard cherry (Harris, 354-55). AA inherited a native grapevine from the Vassalls and planted raspberries,

blackberries, huckleberry, thimbleberry, whortleberry, and red and white currants on the property (Skeen, 58-61).

Aside from flowers and fruit trees, AA's garden included many vegetables. Cucumbers were interspersed among the fruit trees, yet most vegetables were in the north-east section, which served as the kitchen garden (Harris, 366). There, AA planted potatoes, peas, beans, cabbage, squash, pumpkin, turnip, onion, and "sallid" (Lacy, 13). Asparagus grew in large beds near the house, possibly along the northern border of the garden. Along the west side of the house, AA planted wisteria, as well as daffodils, delphiniums, four o'clocks, and nasturtiums, just like she did along the front of the house (Harris, 1973: 983). The Vassalls included an entrance to the garden from the back yard. At the northwest corner of the house, this entrance met one of the main garden paths, which then proceeded around the fruit trees. On the south edge of the garden, AA planted two sweet bay magnolias. By 1794, the Vassall's summer house was gone and the garden beds extended over its foundation (Harris, 1983: 48-50).

JA spent the summer and fall of 1788, "Tramping his fields and pastures, inspecting walls, appraising livestock, hiring help, discussing weather and crops, and delegating projects" (McCullough, 391). By December, he had purchased two oxen and small herds of sheep, pigs, and cows for his new farm (Harris, 317). He built a hah to contain the animals in his Stonyfield farmland across the street. Later in the year, he began preparations to construct his first new farm building—a corncrib to the northeast of the house. Work commenced in the winter of 1793 under AA's supervision as JA was serving as the Vice-President. Once completed, the corncrib measured 30 by 18 feet and had straight sides. John hired men to clear the large meadow north of the garden and was able to turn this soggy wetland into a marginally successful cornfield. He built a stone wall separating the garden and the cornfield, and placed a compost pile alongside it (Skeen, 23-25).

In the summer months, JA and AA were able to harvest apples, plums, quince, cucumbers, cabbage, onions, squash, and potatoes from the farm and garden (Harris, 975-976). In September of 1796, JA began calling the property surrounding the house "Peace field" or "Peacefield" in commemoration of his work on the Treaty of Paris in 1783, which ended the American Revolution (Butterfield ed., 1961: 242).

#### Presidential Years at Peace field:

In 1797, JA was elected the second President of the United States. During his tenure as president, he directed operations at Peace field from afar, returning when he could during summer months. Throughout this period, JA and AA upgraded the Peace field property through additions, renovations, and new construction.

JA and AA renovated the 54-foot long farmhouse behind the house and enlarged the house. In 1797, AA asked Cotton Tufts to add two upper chambers to the farmhouse to accommodate their growing number of servants. When space problems arose, AA had her uncle convert the woodshed in the middle of the farmhouse into a farm kitchen, and add a small dairy room in the back (Skeen, 11-13). The roof was raised and leveled off, creating two second floor chambers, one of which would become JA's new library (Skeen, 14). A laundry drying yard is first

mentioned in 1797 as being directly behind the kitchen (Skeen, 10-11). In 1800, laborers fixed up the house kitchen and painted the exterior while with green shutters. Most significantly, they built a new east wing, which added multiple rooms and a second front door and walkway. This work nearly doubled the size of the house (Skeen, 5; Wren, 3).

During this time, AA also enlarged the small front yard. Extending the eastern fence to the end of the new addition allowed more room for AA's flowers, roses, lilacs, and grass. A covered wooden portico was built to unite the old and new portions of the house.

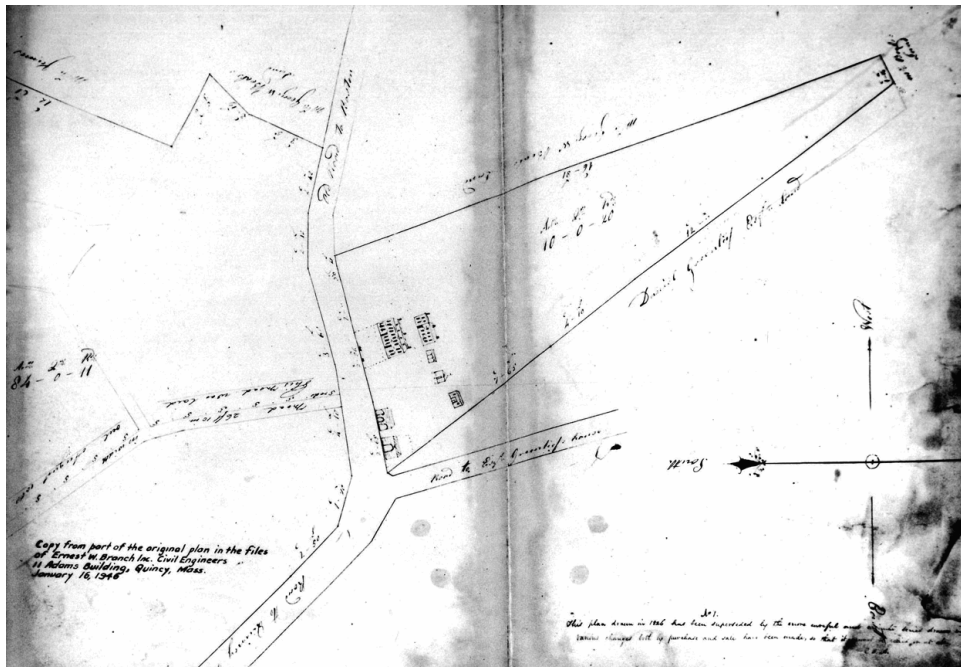
In 1799, JA had a new woodshed constructed to replace the one converted into the farmhouse's kitchen. The new shed stood in line with and east of the farmhouse, close by the house. During the summer of 1799, JA removed the Borland barn and replaced it with a new barn and stable. These two structures stood side by side, along the road on the site of the old barn. The stable stood closest to the house. A paddock area separated it from the east lawn of the house. A fenced-in cow yard was located behind—or north of—the new barn. Further construction included a new cider barn built just north of the new barn and stable (Skeen, 5, 20-33; Lacy 14-17).

#### Post-Presidential Years:

After losing his reelection bid, JA returned to Peace field. Though he and AA remained actively involved with the site, no major alterations to the house or grounds occurred during this time. John would supervise the hired help when they harvested hay, while AA managed affairs with the family and relatives (McCullough, 571-572). In 1804, JA planted a new orchard northwest of the house. Years later, in 1821, he dug a pond in the low, marshy area to the north of the house (Johnson, 23).

AA died in 1818 and JA in 1826. In 1826 Peace field was a large working farm with over 600 acres of land spread north and south of the Boston to Plymouth Road. The center of this farm was the white house with white trim and green shutters, facing south across the road toward Presidents Hill and its newly completed lane. The house was situated on a wedge-shaped piece of land that stretched north. To the north and east of the house were a series of farm buildings that included the farmhouse, 1799 wood house, corncrib, cider barn, stable, and barn, all of which are recorded on Mather Worthington's 1826 survey of the property (Figure 2). The farmhouse was made up of three sections: the washhouse, farm kitchen/dairy and JA's library. To the west of the washhouse and just behind the kitchen was AA's drying yard with clotheslines. Paddocks and a cow yard resided off the stable, and barn. The front yard of the house was enclosed on three sides by wood fences and contained a mixture of flowers, roses, lilac shrubs, plum trees, grass, and horsechestnut trees. The 1731 flower garden was enclosed by a wooden fence and contained four rectangular beds surrounded by gravel paths and lined with boxwood hedges. The beds were filled with an assortment of fruit trees, fruits, herbs, and vegetables. The 1731 summerhouse foundation lay not far from a small tool shed and two tree peonies planted in 1800. Two sweet bay magnolias grew to the south of the flower garden, along the stone wall which separated the property from the road. North of the house were the lower vegetable gardens, the 1821 pond, the 1796 corn meadow with its stonewall and compost pile.





*Figure 2. Survey by Mather Withington in 1826 of John Adams' property after his death showing the house, farmhouse, woodshed, corn crib, cider barn, stable, and barn along the main road. Presidents Lane is on the south side of Adams Street. (Adams NHP)*

#### JOHN QUINCY AND LOUISA CATHERINE ADAMS, 1826–1848

John Quincy Adams (JQA) inherited a portion the Peace field property after his father's death and had to buy back the remainder at an auction. Born in Quincy in 1767, John Quincy followed a career path similar to his father's, serving as Minister Plenipotentiary to the Netherlands, Prussia, Russia, and Great Britain; Secretary of State; President of the U.S.; and as the U.S. Congressman from Massachusetts (Harris, 11-15). As a diplomat and lawyer, JQA played an important role in negotiating the Treaty of Ghent to end the War of 1812, authored the Monroe Doctrine to protect newly-independent colonies, and opposed slavery. In 1841, he successfully defended the Africans who took control of the schooner *Amistad*, which strengthened the abolitionist movement (Nagel, 379-381).

While in London, he married the daughter of the American Consul, Louisa Catherine Johnson in 1797. They had four children, George Washington, Louisa, John, and Charles Francis. Their youngest son, Charles Francis, retained a long-term connection with the Peace field property. JQA's political duties kept him away from Peace field, and he never lived there year-round. When he first acquired the property, he rented it to his brother, Thomas Boylston Adams, for three years (Lacy, 23). After JQA's presidency, he and Louisa Catherine (LCA) began to spend their summers at Peace field. JQA delegated the management of the site to Charles Francis (CFA), who became the official superintendent in 1832 (Nagel, iv).

Under JQA's auspices, Peace field began to transition from a working farm to a country estate. While JQA did not share his father's love of farming, he had an avid interest in the natural sciences, particularly new trends in horticulture (Lacy, 21). His fascination with plants—especially trees—aligned with a growing national interest in horticulture and botany in the first half of the nineteenth century. Additionally, the budding Romantic movement espoused the positive influence of horticulture, gardening, natural scenery, and fresh air on human character. JQA sought to express this on a national scale when he helped establish the U.S. Botanical gardens. He also created extensive gardens around the White House grounds.

The horticulturalist and writer, Andrew Jackson Downing, and architect, Alexander Jackson Davis provided Americans with specific designs and guidance for creating their own rural estates. Their series of books and articles published throughout the 1830s advocated for the benefits of country living on people's moral and physical wellbeing. JQA knew Downing and Davis' work well—Downing dedicated his most popular work, "A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening," to JQA, as they were distantly related. Downing visited Peace field in 1841 and 1845. His theories and designs would influence changes at Peace field over the coming decades (Lacy, 32-33).

Throughout his lifetime, JQA developed a passion for trees and used Peace field to pursue this interest. Shortly after inheriting his father's land in the summer of 1826, JQA participated in a survey of its numerous woodlots, salt marshes, and farmland (Harris, 29-30). He lamented that all the trees surrounding the house had been cut down for heating purposes. To restore the land to its original wooded state, JQA began planting trees throughout his property, and instituted a scientific system for nurturing trees from seedlings to maturity (Harris, 982). In 1826, JQA set out his first experimental tree plantation in the foundation of the old summer house located at the west end of the garden. This seedling garden included shagbark hickory, walnut, oak, horsechestnut, peach, plum, and apricot (Skeen, 53). About a year later, JQA set aside a piece of land in the northwest corner of the garden to create a tree nursery. Formerly AA's upper vegetable garden, this nursery contained maturing seedling trees. After sprouting from nut or seed in the summer house foundation, these young seedlings would spend their next stage of life in this area. Eventually, CFA and JQA converted open areas throughout Peace field into seedling beds, including the old drying yard between the farmhouse and house, the west property line, and the east lawn, where he created his tree seminary.

JQA began his tree seminary within a grassy area enclosed by the woodshed, corn-crib, cider barn, and stable in 1834. Each row of the seminary consisted of eight rings, "Each ring is a circular hole of about four feet diameter dug three feet deep and filled up with manure and fresh earth mixed up with the old soil . . ." Within each ring, "... a peach, cherry or Black walnut seedling tree from the garden or nursery and . . . Apple and . . . seeds Peach and Plum stones, acorns and walnuts" (JQA diary Vol 42, 1839: 203). JQA collected seeds and named them based upon where they had been found, such as "Pennsylvania Walnuts," "Perkins currents" and "seedling Lime trees from under the Hancock lot Line" (Adams, 203; Lacy, 27).

CFA shared his father's passion for trees and continued his program of tree planting at Peace field. They planted dwarf fruit trees and in 1833 and JQA recorded a list of seedling trees and

plants growing at Peace field in his yearly garden book, “althea, apple, ash, beech, blackberry, chestnut, cherry, currant, elm, locust, maple, nectarine, oak, peach, pear, plum, raspberry, strawberry, thimbleberry, walnut, horsechestnut, buttonwood, vine, nettle” (Lacy, 27).

During the 1830s, CFA began moving plants. He moved the rosebushes from the front of the house to the garden area. He then transplanted some English oaks and elms to the front entry area. CFA and JQA also removed AA’s althea and plums, but kept the lilacs and horsechestnut (CFA diary Vol. 4: 27). JQA and CFA retained the garden, which was fenced off with its own gate. Seeds were purchased by CFA and planted by the farmhouse tenant farmer. JQA wrote that the vegetable garden had “plants of Hyssop, now in blossom, Mint Rue, Sage, Tansy soon to blossom... Parsley adjoining... then a bed of strawberries” (Adams Vol. 36, 505). CFA also recorded cucumbers, beans, Jerusalem artichokes, spinach, and raspberries (CFA Vol. 6, 139, 389). In his later years, this vegetable garden waned in productivity as JQA’s focus laid elsewhere. By 1843 he complained that “My garden has been this year so neglected that we have not the common vegetables, peas, and beans, carrots and beets, but must purchase them” (JQA October 4 1841). Within the garden beds, grass areas frequently mentioned by JQA were mowed suggesting that AA’s grass plots remained. JQA stored his tools in a shed located in the vicinity of the garden (Skeen, 61-64).

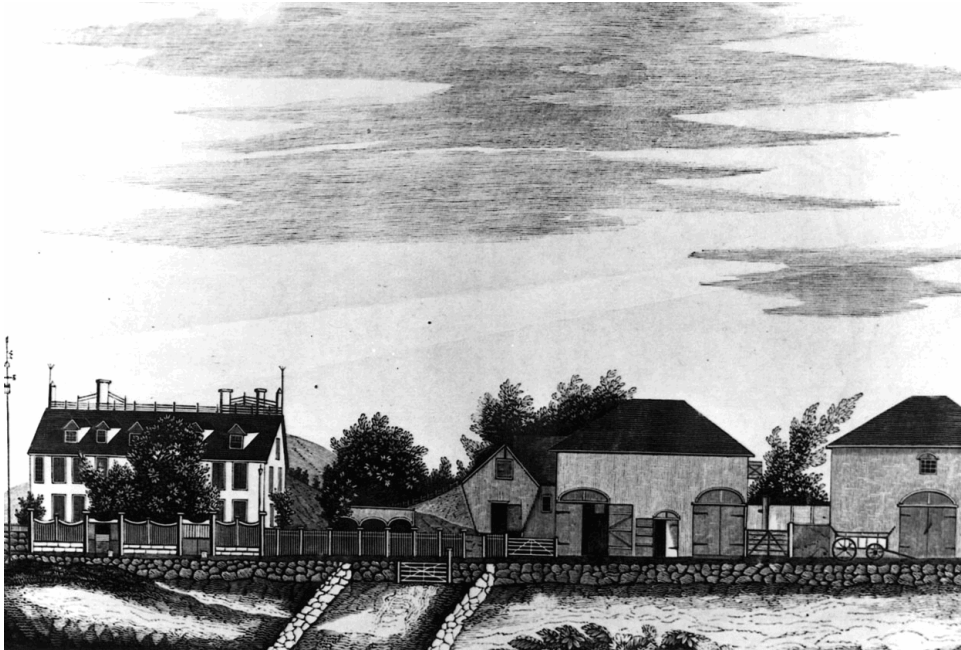
Other garden beds contained various types of fruit trees. Mulberry trees housed Louisa’s silkworms while peach and pear trees grew in front of her chamber window. An apricot tree stood in the center of the garden, an “old St. Michael’s pear tree” south of the summer house cellar, and two young mazzard [cherry] trees in front of the western windows. Additionally, red and white currants, blackberries, huckleberries, thimbleberries and whortleberries grew throughout the garden. JQA may have grown some of these fruit trees and shrubs from seedlings developed in his nurseries. In 1829, Adams family tradition holds that JQA planted the yellowwood tree still extant in the garden to honor his son George Washington who passed away that year (Harris, 847).

The most drastic change in the meadow and farm came in 1844 when the Old Colony Rail Line was built through Quincy, slicing off a strip of land from the eastern side of the Peace field property. This divided the property, and put the large barn built in 1799 in jeopardy of being set on fire. In 1846, JQA dismantled the barn and sold it at auction (Lacy 29-30).

In 1831, it became clear that the wooden parts of the fence in front of the house had rotted. CFA installed 14-inch square granite posts to replace the wooden ones. He retained the low curbing of field stone between the posts and the wall along the south side of the garden and placed a rough picket-style fence on top of it (Figures 3 and 4) (Skeen, 50-53; Lacy, 25, 38).

Despite JQA’s hands-off approach to Peace field, his extensive cultivation of trees transformed the property from relatively open space to well-planted shady grounds. By 1848, a mixture of large and small trees and shrubs shaded the garden beds in front of the house (see Figure 4). Nursery beds around the house and garden contained groupings of small trees in various stages of life reflecting JQA’s avid interest in the horticulture of trees. A wooden fence erected in 1835 replaced a long border of Lombardy poplars planted in 1800 along the Beale property line,

and numerous seedling trees grew along the fence. The gardens and cornfields to the north, west, and south of the house had through the years provided food for JQA's summer table, but were neglected by the 1840s (Skeen, 61-64).



*Figure 3. View north of the Peace field house, woodshed, corn crib, stable, cider barn, and barn. The farmhouse is not visible behind the house. Note the wood picket fence with gates and trees. (Engraving, American Magazine, 1839)*



*Figure 4. Daguerreotype of house, looking northeast in 1849. Note the stone wall topped with a picket fence and the entrance to the right. Mature fruit trees grow in the garden area and trees and shrubs grows in front of and east of house. (Adams NHP)*

#### CHARLES FRANCIS AND ABIGAIL BROOKS ADAMS, 1848 – 1886

Following the death of his father in 1848, Charles Francis and Abigail Brooks Adams (ABA) moved into the house. Over two decades and while raising seven children, they carried out extensive renovations and additions. The couple inherited a great deal of money from ABA's father, and embarked on an ambitious program of improvements that transformed the property from a simple working country farm to a Victorian Estate with a smaller-scale gentleman's farm (Figures 5 and 6). CFA was a writer, historian, and politician. In the 1840s he served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives and the State Senate. Later on, in 1858, he returned to politics when he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. Then, in 1861 Abraham Lincoln appointed CFA the minister to the Court of Saint James, where he would serve until 1868.

By creating a country estate and gentleman's farm, CFA demonstrated a nineteenth-century trend among the wealthy. For families that already owned farmland, such as the Adamses, this transformation made sense in light of the decline of small-scale farming in the eastern U.S. Competition with large mid-western farms, development pressure, and industrial pollution all worked together to decrease the profits of New England farms, leading many farmers to subdivide and sell their land. Furthermore, the increasingly overcrowded and unsanitary living conditions in urban areas led many wealthier people to leave the city for the country.

Nineteenth-century social reform movements emphasized both the psychological and physical benefits of rural settings.

Considerable industrial growth and the beginnings of suburban development marked the second half of the nineteenth century in Quincy. Between 1840 and 1890, the population more than tripled, reaching 16,726 by 1890. The increased service on the Old Colony Line adjacent to Peace field provided CFA with a constant reminder of the encroachments on his estate.

The holdings of CFA and Abigail were extensive (Figure 7). In 1865 a tax valuation was compiled for the property. The valuation showed the couple as owning a total of 885 acres of land throughout Quincy including 360 acres of woodland, 36 acres of salt marsh, 397 acres at Mount Wollaston and 17 acres at the house. Ten acres were leased to Bob Spear, a relation of previous tenant William Spear. In 1865 CFA owned forty-three cows, five horses, six oxen, and five pigs. Along with the house, farmhouse, and various Peace field farm buildings, which are not individually listed on the tax valuation, CFA owned the Presidents Hill house he built in 1837, known as the “New House” along with two barns and another house.

CFA began work on the “Old House” in 1848, when he installed a modern system of running water and improved the kitchen facilities. He also painted the exterior grey with green shutters and white trim (see Figure 5). In 1852, he replaced the front portico and added a new one to the east side of the house, which forced the removal of the flowerbed that JQA had planted there (Figures 8 and 9). CFA also brought gas piping into the Old House by 1861, after which house improvements ceased due to his political duties overseas.

In the spring and summer of 1869, CFA built a new servants wing on the north side of the house and removed the farmhouse. Additionally, he painted the exterior beige, removed the seventeenth-century roof fencing, and added a new slate roof. CFA constructed the stone library adjacent to the Old House—the nation’s first presidential library—to safeguard his family’s valuable papers and books from fire. Completed in 1870, the Gothic-revival stone and brick structure was located on the northeast edge of the flower garden.

One of the first changes the couple made to the landscape was rebuilding and extending the stone wall that John Adams constructed. The new six-foot-high wall divided the flower garden from Adams Street, and by 1852, had been extended around the southeastern side of the Old House. ABA planted flowerbeds along the interior section of the stone wall. Figures 4, 5, 6, and 8 show the evolution of the boundary wall.

The new library forced the removal of the vegetable garden in the northeast corner of the gardens, and thereafter was entirely devoted to ornamental plants. This also reflected ABA’s great interest in flowers. In the 1870s, she planted rhododendrons in the southwest, northwest, and southeast corners of the garden. Other flowers she admired and grew included bleeding heart, day lily, delphinium, hollyhock, iris, tree peony, and peony. During this time she also introduced vines such as Dutchman’s pipe, honeysuckle, trumpet vine, and more wisteria and grapes to the house, stone library and boundary walls.

CFA and Abigail removed mature fruit trees from the garden and replaced them with square grass plots bordered by flowers. They moved the tree laboratory, nursery, and seminary to the nearby President's Hill. Only the American yellowwood planted by JQA remained growing within the garden beds. Sweet bay magnolias remained in the open lawn space between the garden and stone wall bordering Adams Street. With the abundance of flowers and the even repetition of each flower species throughout the beds, the garden took on a formal English design.

CFA used a small greenhouse to start and grow plants for the flower garden. Though unclear how many greenhouses have occupied Peace field over the years, one was located northeast of the Old House in the meadow around 1876, and an 1897 map shows a building just north of the flower garden.

In April 1871, after planting a few trees on the slope north of the farmhouse's former location, CFA received word from Quincy's town commissioners of a plan to lay a new road through the eastern boundary of Peace field, drastically changing its character. CFA continued planting new trees, placing some maple and tupelos—two tree species that tolerate wet soils—in the flood-prone meadow that he had unsuccessfully tried to convert into a vegetable garden in the early 1850s.

While in Geneva involved in diplomatic negotiations over the Alabama claims, CFA learned that the Town of Quincy planned to slice off a fifty-foot strip of land off along the eastern boundary of his seventeen-acre property for the creation of the new thoroughfare. In response, CFA commissioned the Boston architectural firm of Cummings and Sears in March 1872 to present him with a tentative proposal for "placing a stable in the most convenient way" as he sought a way to deal with the loss of land. Returning to Quincy in November 1872, CFA dealt with the numerous unwanted changes where he found, "the men at work, and the preparations making for the road which is to take so great a part of my land."

Construction on the new two-storied, U-shaped, granite and brick Victorian carriage house from 1873 to 1874 required the digging of a well for the stable section of the structure and the grading of the area. Situated with its back to Newport Avenue, the new structure was CFA's final addition to the Peace field. In an era when carriage houses and coachman's quarters were found only upon country estates of the very wealthy, the new structure signified Charles and Abigail's financial status, further shifting the Peace field property from a working farm to a country estate.

The carriage house contained three distinct sections. In the northern section, the first floor contained a livestock stable with a hayloft located on the second floor. Extending from the north end of the stable was an open shed and corral for livestock. The coachman's living quarters occupied the southern section of the carriage house, while the center section contained the family's carriages. A graded ramp leading from the carriage section connected to a new gravel drive that entered from a newly created entry gate off Newport Avenue and extended to the rear of the Old House. In November 1873, the 1799 woodshed was moved to the eastern property boundary next to the newly created eastern entry gate.

Removal of all farm structures sitting upon the property—apart from the 1799 woodshed—began on April 30, 1873 with the dismantling of the cider barn. Recording the event in his diary, sixty-five year-old CFA wrote, “The antiquated cider-house is no more . . . who would know this place as my grandfather’s which I lived in fifty-five years ago, one of a large family of inmates.” Seven months later on November 6, 1873, the corncrib and icehouse were torn down as work resumed extending the granite stone wall surrounding the property after a twenty-year break. As compensation for the changes to the property, CFA received \$2,000 for the barn, cider barn, corncrib, and icehouse from the Town of Quincy.

On January 1, 1874, CFA declared the new carriage house ready for tenants. Site work around the carriage house continued throughout the spring and included the removal of the 1854 barn and 1799 barn, regrading for a driveway along the south and west sides of the new building, and construction of a stone wall along the new roadside. Later, CFA added another entry gate from Newport Avenue north of the carriage house, near the corral and extended the gravel driveway around to this lower end of the carriage house, linking the south and north entrances. A final element, constructed in association with the carriage house, was a cesspool, which was added to the north of the stable wing.

In 1875 CFA housed thirteen horses, along with an unknown number of cows and goats in the new stable and corral. Many of the horses were workhorses, retained for plowing and planting the cultivated area north of the house. By this time, the Adams’ agricultural fields were an anomaly in the increasingly urban Quincy landscape. CFA appears to have embraced this distinction. A large strawberry field also sat upon his property, but its exact location is unknown. In June CFA threw strawberry parties, inviting the residents of Quincy to come and pick his strawberries.

Shortly after the carriage barn was completed, CFA planted more trees around the building and on the newly graded slope. CFA purchased many seedlings locally through his association with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. CFA also started plants in a small greenhouse used predominantly to grow plants for the flower garden. A greenhouse was located northeast of the Old House in the meadow, as shown on a map from 1876 and in a photograph taken during a late 1800s flood. A map from 1897 does not show a greenhouse in this location, but depicts a building north of the flower garden.

Following his estate’s transformation, CFA declared that no further changes should occur upon the historic property. During the third generation of Adams family ownership, the family’s land holdings grew from some 600 to 885 acres, due to the diligent management of CFA and the financial resources of ABA. Though plagued with costly repairs and infringing development, the couple held on to Peace field while also managing additional residences in Quincy and Boston. CFA was unable to stop the construction of Newport Avenue, which eliminated a large strip of land from Peace field, but was proactive in making changes that would preserve the former presidential homestead, house the family’s library and furnishings, and enhance the property’s appearance as a country estate. By 1886 most of the farm outbuildings were gone with the exception of the 1799 woodshed. The enlarged house was flanked by the new stone



library to the northwest and the large carriage house to the east, which contained the consolidated farm operations. An improved boundary wall delineated the edge of the estate and a young grove of trees grew along the steep slope to the meadow, which resulted from the regrading for the carriage house and driveway.

The front entry area and flower garden reflected CFA and ABA's affinity for ornamental plants. The entry area included a new wooden lattice fence with matching entry gates. Maturing elms shaded the new plantings. Dutchman's pipe and wild grapevines hung from the new front portico. The flower garden to the west of the house diminished in size due to the new stone library. Flowers replaced vegetables and lawn panels replaced fruit trees, reflecting a transition from a utilitarian to an aesthetic treatment of the domestic core of the landscape. Contrary to broader trends to phase out agriculture, the Adamses retained livestock and crops in fields to the north and south of the house as well as elsewhere in Quincy. A small orchard stood in the sloping meadow, stretching north to Furnace Brook. The brook itself was lined with a variety of trees and vegetables grew in the fertile field beyond. Despite the further development surrounding the property, the core of the Peace field landscape today largely reflects its appearance at the end of CFA and ABA period of ownership.



*Figure 5. Oil painting by Frankenstein of house in 1849 looking northwest with wood picket fence. Elm trees line the front of house and a mature horsechestnut tree stands in front of the house. The stable stands at right. (Adams NHP)*



*Figure 6. Wood cut of house in c. 1850. Note the shrubs, vines, and trees planted in the front of the house, as well as the low stone wall with granite posts and picket fence on top, running along the walk at the front of the property. (Adams NHP)*



*Figure 7. View south of Peace field, c.1870, from Wollaston Heights showing rail line and farm buildings prior to Newport Avenue construction, including cider barn, stable (far right), corn crib, and possibly ice house. (Quincy Historical Society)*



*Adams House*

*Open Field Across the Road.*

*June 1887*

*Figure 8. View of house and front entry in 1887. Note large blooming lilac shrubs along the front entrance, blooming horsechestnut tree, and a vase-shaped elm at center. A catalpa tree, not yet in leaf, stands beyond southwest corner of house. (Adams NHP)*



*Figure 9. View west in 1889 of the portico installed by Charles Francis Adams at the east facade of the house. Note the vines growing along the attached trellises and the potted palms. (Adams NHP)*

#### BROOKS AND EVELYN DAVIS ADAMS, 1886–1927

Following CFA's passing, his remaining heirs—John Quincy II, Charles Francis II, Henry, Mary Gardiner, and Brooks—formed the Adams Real Estate Trust to preserve Peace field. Under terms of the Trust, Charles' widow, ABA, could live at Peace field until her death, which came in June 1889. All of CFA's heirs spent varying amounts of time at the family estate, but only Brooks Adams (BA) would have a lasting impact on the site's appearance and history. BA lived at Peace field periodically starting in 1849, spending winters in Boston and summers at Peace field. He attended Harvard College and Harvard Law School, and after briefly practicing law, concentrated on historical research, publishing several books and lecturing at Boston University Law School. In 1889, BA married Evelyn "Daisy" Davis, who would also assist with the care of Peace field. The couple had no children.

Brooks and Evelyn presided over Peace field during a period of profound change in Quincy. By the end of the nineteenth century, residential subdivisions usurped farmland in Quincy. During World War I, shipbuilding surpassed the granite quarrying as the city's major industry. The growing shipyards attracted thousands of workers in need of housing. In 1880, the city's population was 10,570. Eight years later it had swelled to 16,723, and reached 40,674 in 1915. Concurrently, transportation networks such as highways and rail lines developed, making travel between Boston and Quincy more convenient than ever. This drastic expansion in population and transportation would have significant effects on Peace field during BA's tenure.

At the same time, the late nineteenth and early twentieth century saw the beginnings of the American historic preservation movement. Historically minded scholars and civic leaders

began to advocate for the preservation of the nation's historic resources. Their efforts resulted in the Antiquities Act of 1906, which provided a blanket authority for the President to preserve "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest." This act laid the groundwork for the federal protection of the Adams property in the decades ahead.

Amidst the changes occurring in Quincy, BA sought to preserve Peace field's historic core. In 1891, he formally took over management of the property, and maintained it until his death in 1927. By the end of CFA's life, the house and grounds had grown dilapidated and required substantial restoration. BA's efforts ensured the survival of the estate. BA modernized the Old House by installing a gas stove in the kitchen and central heating throughout the house. He painted the house's exterior white with green shutters as an 1849 painting depicted it. In 1905, Brooks designed a doghouse for his two Scottish terriers. Located north of the carriage house, this structure had a hipped gabled roof with wood shingles, clapboard siding, and an arched entryway—mimicking the adjacent carriage house. In 1920, BA removed the east portico of the Old House to allow more sunlight into the Long Room. He also installed electricity in the Old House and a telephone in the carriage house.

BA also altered the front entrance to Peace field. He replaced the front gates and wooden lattice-work fencing in front of the house with a new brick wall and wooden gates, atop which he installed carved wooden urns of his own design based on a gate he had seen in England. The wooden gates featured six panels with decorative spindles on top, bracketed by fourteen-inch square pillars. Between the new gates and the house, BA unearthed long-buried flagstones in the front walkway and reset them.

BA meticulously cared for the garden west of the Old House with pathways raked daily and entryway shrubs pruned for symmetry. He added delphiniums and white dahlias to the garden beds. He allowed vines including wisteria, trumpet vine, and honeysuckle to climb the walls of the Old House, stone library, and boundary wall.

The maturing elms and shrubs located in the front entryway cast heavy shade, necessitating the relocation of sun loving plants. As such, in 1890 BA moved Abigail Adams' York rose to a sunnier location just outside the window of the Long Room. North of the flower garden, BA created a rectangular rose bed next to a long row of grapevines attached to a trellis. He also planted a dwarf Japanese maple. Additionally, BA introduced sweet mockorange shrubs in the area south of the flower garden and bordering the walkway to the front entry.

In 1920, Evelyn initiated another set of changes to the front entry area. She transplanted ferns from the Blue Hills Reservation and planted them on each side of the new eastern front gate built by BA and along the front portico. She also planted candy grass along the front portico as well, replacing the tulips and nasturtiums.

The orchard remained the last bastion of agriculture at Peace field. BA rebuilt the greenhouse in the meadow. The interior was dug out to a depth of three feet from the top of the concrete and wood gabled frame supported the glass roof. BA grew vegetables in and around the

greenhouse, including peas, leeks, and squash. He also planted pumpkins and squash in a nearby compost pile. BA preserved and expanded the orchard north of the house, planting new trees and replacing old ones. In contrast to his preservation efforts, BA constructed a two-car garage adjacent to the carriage house in 1916. This relatively small one-story structure was built of fire-proof cinderblocks, and slate roofing tiles. A short driveway approached the garage from Newport Avenue. At about the same time, he filled in the small pond that had been dug by John Adams in 1821.

During BA's tenure, the land to the north of the house underwent the most drastic changes, directly related to those occurring in Quincy. In 1903, the Adams Real Estate Trust conveyed 1.5 acres of land to the Metropolitan District Commission for the construction of Furnace Brook Parkway (Figure 10). Established in 1893, the Commission oversaw and maintained the first regional organization of public open space in the U.S. Landscape architect Charles Eliot was the primary founder and directed the selection acquisition, and development of thousands of acres. Parkways—landscaped highways usually with a planted median strip or adjacent waterway—connected these open space systems. The Furnace Brook Parkway connected the Blue Hills Reservation and Quincy Shore Reservation.

The piece of land carved out of Peace field lay in an east-west swath cutting through the center of the property, effectively severing it into two tracts—one parcel of approximately 4.14 acres with the Old House and nearby gardens and another of about 6.94 acres north of the new road. Also, Furnace Brook was re-routed to run generally alongside the Parkway, simplifying the drainage of the parkway and making the northern portion of the Adams property more suitable for development.

Construction of the parkway began in 1904 and was not completed until 1916. Some work continued throughout the 1920s, including tree plantings along the roadway and installation of streetlights in 1927. By the time BA died in 1927, most of the acreage surrounding Peace field had been sold off and partitioned for residential and commercial development. Peace field retained approximately 4.05 acres of land bounded on the south and east by stone walls along Adams Street and Newport Avenue. To the west, the Beale estate still kept its spacious character. Willow trees lined the newly-operational Furnace Brook Parkway, and other vegetation grew along the rerouted and channeled brook, cutting off the view to the north. New residences on Adams Street replaced the fields that flanked Presidents Hill.

Elms and other mature deciduous trees shaded the house, east lawn, and slope beside the carriage house. A variety of shrubs, vines, and ornamental flowers beds adorned the lawn area around the Old House. Clipped boxwood hedges and decorative annuals and perennials defined the flower garden (Figure 11). An orchard of mixed fruit trees grew in the lower meadow. The duck pond was gone and a small modern cinder-block garage stood nearby. Over their time at Peace field, Brooks and Evelyn sought to preserve the site's historic character, while leaving an imprint of their fourth generation of property stewardship.

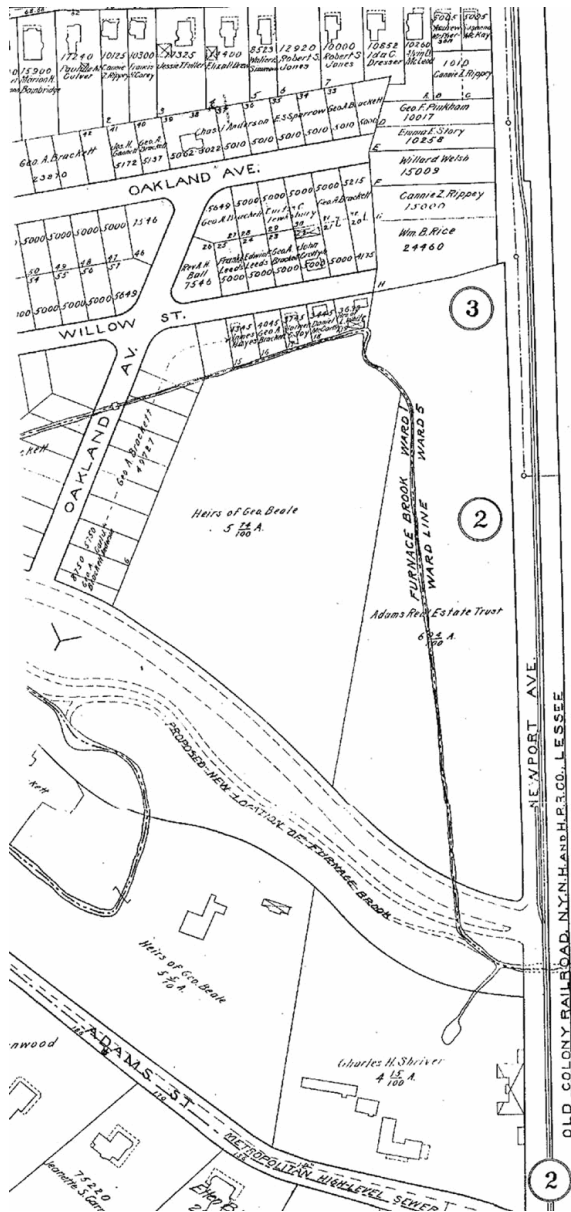


Figure 10. Map from 1907 depicting the proposed route of the Furnace Brook Parkway and the rerouting of the Furnace Brook. (Illustrated Site Chronology, Adams NHS, 1997: 52)





*Figure 11. View of the garden at Peace field in 1928 with lush perennial borders, which were carefully tended under the guidance of Brooks Adams. Note the vines growing along the western facade of the house. (Adams NHP)*

#### ADAMS MEMORIAL SOCIETY, 1927–1946

In 1927 the grandchildren of Charles Francis Adams established the Adams Memorial Society to care for the Old House and eventually preserve it as a “museum and shrine.” The Adams family trust conveyed Peace field outright to the Society on March 28, 1927. Over the course of its two-decade ownership of Peace field, the Adams Memorial Society sought to forestall the site’s decay as well as fundamentally transform it from a private residence to a public historic house museum. Its tenure as Peace field’s guardian was a difficult one, due to the Great Depression and World War II.

In Quincy, residential neighborhoods surrounding Peace field continued to expand. The remaining portion of the Adams property south of Adams Street was sold in 1930. The shipbuilding industry in Quincy was already a major economic force by the outset of World War II. At its peak, the shipyards employed 32,000 workers. In 1940, the population of Quincy reached 75,810.

After raising funds through its membership, the Society undertook necessary house repairs and modernizations. Additionally, the Society negotiated an agreement with the City of Quincy to have the taxes for the property remitted if the estate opened to the public, which occurred on July 25, 1927. The site was open for seven days a week, from April to the end of October, but revenues were modest.

In the 1930s, the historic preservation movement gained momentum with the passage of the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935—the most significant preservation enactment since the 1906 Antiquities Act. The new national policy provided the groundwork “to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the U.S.” Additionally, the federal government established the Works Progress Administration in the mid 1930s, an agency that created employment opportunities throughout the country for skilled and unskilled workers, ranging from new construction and repairs, to artistic endeavors and surveying projects. In 1936, workers were hired to survey the Peace field house and grounds, as well as the two birthplaces, for the Historic American Buildings Survey program, established to document America’s architectural heritage. Twelve drawings were completed, including five site plans as well as architectural details documenting features such as the gates, walls, and fences.

The 1936 survey provided an accurate record of the Peace field landscape, including names and locations of vegetation, tree sizes and the overall layout of the site with detailed plans of the flower garden and the east lawn (Figure 12). With historical data provided by Henry Adams II, the survey also depicted the location of five buildings that no longer existed, including the farmhouse, cornerib (shed), two barns, and stable. The plan also showed the original site of the relocated woodshed, also known as the wood house. The orchard plan reflects an amalgamation of fruit trees from multiple periods and of multiple species, including apple, pear, cherry, and walnut. It is likely that some trees were lost and others added, though not on a clearly defined grid.

Many of the small structures not depicted on the Sanborn or Stadly maps or other earlier property surveys were recorded in the 1936 Historic American Building Survey. Indicated are the pump to the north of the house, the drying yard, the rose garden, a grape trellis north of the garden, the greenhouse in the meadow, and the garage added by BA. Paths are noted leading from the flower garden and carriage house to the greenhouse. Photographs from this period show that the meadow, or lower garden, was mowed infrequently, hence the need for paths through this area. A detailed plan of the flower garden area depicts the rectilinear garden beds, but does not indicate species within the beds other than a few of the shrubs. Several trees and shrubs also surrounded the garden, framing the space.

By 1942, the Society realized that it could not afford to maintain the Old House. It had already given the City of Quincy the property containing the birthplaces of JA and JQA, yet that still did not ease their financial burden. In 1944, all Society members approved the transfer of the property to the federal government. The timing for the transfer of the Adams property to the National Park Service was ideal, as it was one of the first considered for designation as a national historic site, and one of many presidential sites that would be preserved.

Though initially delayed during World War II, the National Park Service deemed the significance of Adams property important enough for the Secretary of the Interior to approach President Roosevelt for approval. Negotiations ensued from April 1945 to 1946 when the government finally accepted ownership of the donated property, including the contents of the

Old House. On December 9, the Secretary of the Interior officially designated the property as the Adams Mansion National Historic Site. The deed specified that the site will “perpetuate the memory of the four generations of the Adams family who occupied the Old House from 1787 to 1927.” The National Park Service agreed to allow the family to continue using the Old House for weddings and funeral services for the lineal descendants of the first Charles Francis Adams and to hold Memorial Society meetings at the site. The Memorial Society stayed in existence to provide continued support of the national historic site.

The Memorial Society maintained the flower garden as well as possible given the limited funds, but much of the grounds and the buildings experienced neglect and became overgrown. The yellowwood tree was maintained, but gaps began to appear in the boxwood hedges. Ornamental shrubs placed around the buildings remained and the York rose continued to thrive and many of the plantings installed by Brooks and Evelyn remained. The location of the filled-in duck pond remained an open area with an American elm nearby. Most of the field north of the house was unmowed, further reflecting the minimal attention given to certain areas.

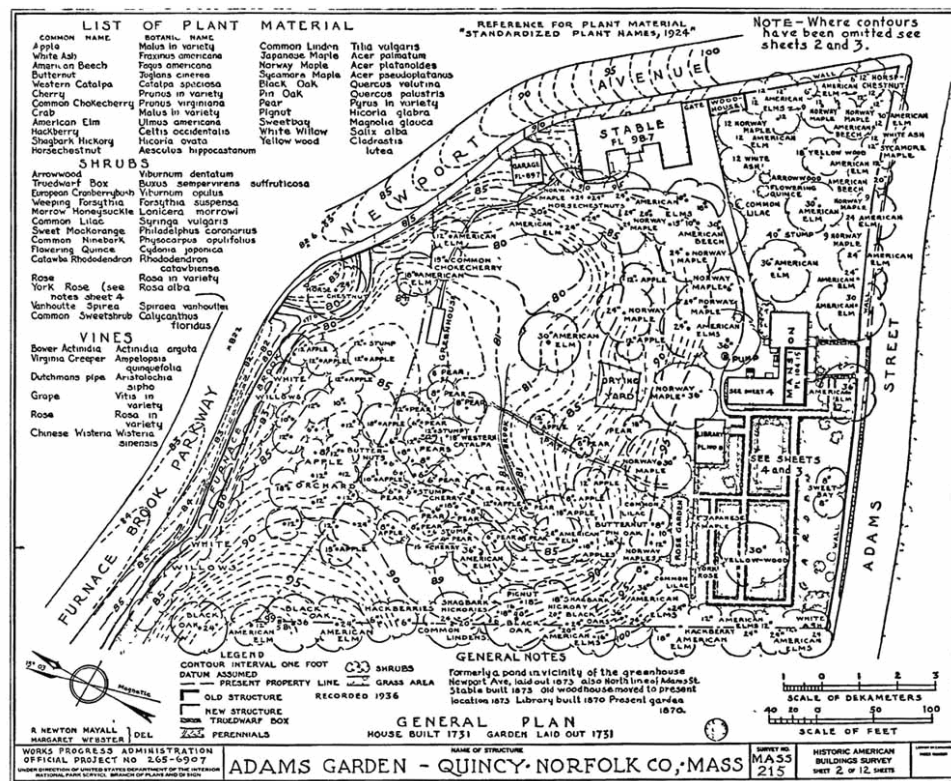


Figure 12. Survey of Peacefield in 1936, including building layout, vegetation, contours, and plant lists. (Works Progress Administration Project, U.S. Department of the Interior, Adams NHP, #386 25002 id. 43981)

#### NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, 1946-PRESENT

Initially designated as Adams Mansion National Historic Site, the parcel became the Adams

National Historic Site in 1952, at the behest of the family. In 1998, Congress re-designated the site as Adams National Historical Park, to reflect the additions of the Beale Estate, birthplaces, and other sites. The National Park Service appointed Raymond H. Corry as the site's first custodian. Corry's tenure ended after only eight months, when he was transferred to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park. Wilhelmina Harris, who had worked for Brooks Adams as his social secretary in the 1920s and was later hired by the National Park Service as a Historical Aid, then became the superintendent in November 1950, and the first female National Park Service superintendent.

Shortly after Peace field received its official designation as a National Historic Site, the National Park Service prepared an existing conditions plan as part of a master plan for the site. The plan depicted the general layout of the property, including buildings, trees, and shrubs, including the York rose, but not the rose garden that Brooks Adams installed just to the north of the York rose. Park staff or the Memorial Society may have removed those beds to reduce maintenance and labor costs. In 1948, and again in 1968, the park prepared a more detailed plan of the flower garden and grounds that identified specific plant names for the shrubs and trees.

The park also preserved the orchard north of the house—the only evidence of agriculture that remained at the Peace field. The orchard contained a mixture of apples, pears, and peach trees from different eras. The park planted new trees to fill in gaps, with selections most likely based on information that Wilhelmina Harris had gleaned from Brooks Adams. Over the years, the park replanted short-lived trees and carefully tended existing trees in order to prolong their life-span (Figures 13 and 14). The park sought to preserve the mature shade trees surrounding the house, but had to remove the declining elms (Figure 15).

In 1951, the National Park Service decided that the concrete garage constructed by Brooks Adams was too dilapidated to maintain and demolished it. The park then returned the site of the building to turf, and accordingly adjusted the driveway layout to create a more streamlined approach around the carriage house. In addition, they refurbished the carriage house for staff quarters and offices, including administration, interpretation, and maintenance.

In the 1960s the National Park Service restored the duck pond installed by John Adams and constructed a boundary wall along the property line on Newport Avenue from the carriage house to Furnace Brook. The wall was designed to work with the sloping grade by varying the elevation in sections. The masonry construction matched the existing wall south of the woodshed, with a minimum thickness of one and a half feet and topped with granite coping.

A major change to the site came in September 1971, when the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority completed an extension of the Red Line subway from Boston to Quincy. The new rapid transit line ran along a track bed immediately parallel to Newport Avenue and adjacent to the eastern boundary of Peace field. The proximity of the train line to the site increased the noise level greatly at the site.

In October 2008, a program intended to introduce urban youth to plants and environmental

protection brought over fifty children from Boston to the site to plant more than 3,000 daffodil bulbs in the orchard. The orchard also served as a classroom from a National Park Service sponsored youth urban horticulture program, entitled Branching Out, which focused on pruning the fruit and shade trees throughout the property.

The National Park Service continues to maintain the landscape at Peace field as it appeared at the time of BA's death with a few modifications. In addition, the park acquired a piece of land donated by the Metropolitan District Commission, expanding the property size to 4.77 acres. The adjacent Beale estate was acquired, protecting the property from surrounding development and providing space for park operations. Other additions to the landscape included directional and park signs to guide visitors, and a sixty-foot flagpole in the east lawn. The park continues to maintain and propagate plants for the landscape and replace trees that have declined. Special care is also given to existing historic plants such as the York rose, the yellowwood tree, and numerous mature shade trees. Visitors to Peace field can still delight in these surviving features of a rich family history.



*Figure 13. View of the orchard north of the house in 1959, including new trees planted by the National Park Service. Elm and walnut trees are interspersed. (Adams NHP)*



*Figure 14. Aerial view of Peacefield taken in the 1960s. Note the mixed age orchard to the right. Mature shade trees around the buildings and east lawn corner. A gas station is under construction to the right, across Furnace Brook Parkway. (Adams NHP)*



*Figure 15. View of the house and front entrances in the 1960s. Note the wood gates, urns, hitching posts, mature elm tree to the left, large lilacs just inside the wall, and dense vines on the porch. (Adams NHP)*

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Significant landscape characteristics identified for Peace field include spatial organization, land use, topography, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, constructed water features, and small scale features. These characteristics have associated features that contribute to the site's overall historic significance. The historical integrity of Peace field is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance—1731 to 1927—with the existing conditions as assessed in 2012. Many of the existing features contribute to the historic character of the site's landscape.

Overall, the existing character of the Peace field landscape reflects the layers of historic development for the period of significance. The property retains its location, design, historic materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, although the setting is diminished by adjacent development. The Old House and its furnishings, as embellished by the four generations of Adamsses; the stone library and its books; the carriage house, greenhouse, and woodshed all remain. The garden to the west of the Old House has kept its original form and system of gravel paths and box hedges since first built for the Vassall/Borland family in the 1700s, though the summer house was removed and one corner was altered when the stone library was built in 1869, losing the northeast bed. Some original plant material remains, and other plants have been replaced in-kind. The stone walls on the property lines along Adams and Newport streets remain in good condition as does the entry gate. The view of the property from Adams Street and Newport Avenue reflects the rural character as depicted in historic drawings and photographs.

Since 1927, several landscape features present during the historic period were rebuilt, such as the duck pond and the dog house. Other changes have included replacing missing trees in the orchard, the removal of the Brooks Adams garage, and the construction of a boundary wall along Newport Avenue. The setting has diminished due to the continued growth of residential and commercial development around the property and the construction of the MBTA Red Line to the east in the early 1970s. However, the acquisition of the adjacent Beale property has helped preserve some of the site's rural character.

### INTEGRITY

#### Location:

Location is defined by the National Register as the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The Peace field property retains integrity of location even though the acreage has been greatly diminished over time.

#### Design:

Design is defined by the National Register as the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The Georgian architectural design elements are present in



## Peace field

### Adams National Historical Park

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the Old House and Victorian Eclectic Style elements are present in the stone library and carriage house. Colonial and Colonial Revival garden design elements are present in the entry and garden area. Agricultural elements including the orchard and greenhouse remain, ornamental and shade tree plantings remain throughout the property, and buffer plantings remain along property lines.

#### Setting:

Setting is the physical environment of a property and the general character of the place. During the ownership of John and Abigail Adams, Peace field was set in a rural and agricultural context, surrounded by farm fields to the north, east, and south. The rural character diminished with the construction the railroad line in the 1840s, Newport Avenue in the 1870s, and Furnace Brook Parkway in the 1910s, and the widening of Adams Street in the early 1900s—all of which occurred during the second, third, and fourth generations of Adams ownership. The rural character is further diminished by the residential development to the north and south of the property, which began in the 1920s and has become denser in the twentieth century. Most noteworthy intrusions are the gas station to the north and the high-rise apartment building to the east. The adjacent Beale property remains intact and is an important buffer that adds to the rural character of the Adams property.

#### Materials:

Materials are the physical features that were combined or deposited during the period of significance in a particular pattern or configuration to give form to the property. Much original fabric remains in the Peace field landscape. Rehabilitation has occurred on most of the buildings and stone wall, altering some of the historic materials. Some of the original plant material has been lost, especially the large shade trees along Adams Street and near the north side of the Old House. Some of the original lilacs planted by Abigail Adams still exist, but are in poor condition. The large walnut and yellowwood trees in the flower garden area from the John Quincy Adams period are extant. The boxwood hedges of the flower garden are thought to be original as are the York rose and wisteria vines. The garden has evolved since 1927, but mostly with in-kind plantings. The stone walls, entry gate, and hitching posts remain intact. Overall, an assortment of original materials remains to retain integrity to the period of significance.

#### Workmanship:

Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts and methods of construction used during the specified historic period of significance. Evidence of the historic workmanship of the Peace field landscape is extant and visible in the configuration of paving surfaces, placement of plant material, and workmanship of landscape structures in the flower garden, and property walls. This is mainly due to effective maintenance that helps convey the design intent and craftsmanship of the periods of significance.

#### Feeling:

Feeling is the expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular time resulting from the presence of physical features that, taken together, convey a property's historic character. Peace field's landscape is still evocative of the sense of place created by multiple generations of the Adams family. The surrounding roads, rail lines, and tall buildings detract from the rural feeling, however

much of this development took place during the period of significance.

**Association:**

Association is the direct link between an important event or person and the property. Although Peace field is no longer a private home or managed by the Adams Memorial Society, evidence of its connection to the Adams family is obvious in the house and around the grounds.

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding List of Classified Structures names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1731–1927), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. This section has been excerpted from the 2011 draft "Cultural Landscape Report for Peace field."

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Spatial Organization**

The Peace field landscape features clusters of historic buildings surrounded by distinct spaces comprised of lawns, trees, orchards, and gardens. The building clusters and Entry, Garden, East Lawn, and Meadow area remain much as they did at the end of the historic period.

**Historic Conditions:**

**Building Cluster.**

The cluster of buildings and structures at Peace field—the Old House, stone library, carriage house, woodshed, and greenhouse—are in their historical locations and retain their historical appearance. The woodshed and greenhouse were relocated during the historic period. Shortly after constructing the house in 1731, Leonard Vassall requested permission from the town to move the road to a further distance from the house. Subsequent road widening brought the road back closer to the house.

Over the years, the Adamses expanded the Old House, but its core, constructed in 1731, remains intact and faces the road. Charles Francis Adams built the stone library in 1869 near the northwest corner of the house and the library entrance also faces the main road. Charles Francis built the carriage house in 1873–74, replacing a grouping of barns and outbuildings east of the Old House, which were to be displaced by construction of Newport Avenue. The carriage house main doors open into a courtyard on the west side of the structure, while secondary entrances open to the south and north. The east or road side of the building serves as a wall or barrier along Newport Avenue. A driveway along the upper terrace at the edge of the east lawn connects the house to the carriage house.

John and Abigail Adams constructed the woodshed in 1799, which was originally close to the northeast corner of the house. Charles Francis moved the building along the Newport Avenue boundary of the property in the 1870s, where it served as a barrier against Newport Avenue. The woodshed has remained on the property an example of a typical outbuilding found in an early New England farm in the late 1700s. Like the carriage house, the doors face west

toward the house.

Brooks Adams most likely constructed the greenhouse. According to the property's "Historic Structures Report," the building was constructed in 1900 and moved to its present location in 1950. The present greenhouse occupies the site of an earlier greenhouse. Its orientation is typical for greenhouses with its long side facing south. Utilitarian in design, there is no stylistic or visual link with the other buildings on the property.

#### Entry Area.

In 1731, one gate in the fence along the road opened into the small enclosed entry area in front of the house. Abigail Adams' renovations in 1800 included a new portico and an addition to the east side of the house, including a second front door, which necessitated a second gate and path. A fence extended from the southeast corner of the house to the front boundary fence. This section of fence kept barnyard animals out of the front entry and was relocated after Abigail's additions, enlarging the house entry area. After this renovation, two parallel paths led to the house with a square panel of grass between them.

#### Garden Area.

The flower garden, which was initially contained vegetables and fruit trees, was enclosed on all sides, creating an outdoor room, with the house on the east side, a post and rail fence along the northern and western borders of the garden, and a fence along the southern boundary and road. This feeling of enclosure continued through the entire period of historic significance. Three main paths ran east to west, lined by the boxwood hedges, and cross paths ran north to south. The northeast bed was removed in 1869 when the stone library was built. John Quincy Adams added many trees to the perimeter garden beds and along property boundary, giving the garden a more enclosed feeling. A black walnut tree marked the corner of John Quincy's tree nursery, which later became the corner of Brooks Adams' rose garden. The Adams Memorial Society removed the rose garden, but a row of lilacs continued to define the northern edge from the stone library extending westward. Other trees, including many elms, lined the western and southern boundaries. The garden changed dramatically in 1870 when Abigail Brooks Adams removed the fruit trees from the garden and replaced them with perennials and annuals, leaving the yellowwood tree as the predominant vertical element inside the boxwood hedges.

#### East Lawn Area.

The area east of the house originally contained the farmyard with a stable, barn, cider barn, corn crib, ice house, cow yard, and possible chicken coop at the southeast corner, as well as an entrance to the property along Adams Street. Several shade trees, mostly elms lined the edge of the space along Adams Street. When the Town of Quincy constructed Newport Avenue in the 1870s, Charles Francis was forced to make changes to this area. He constructed the carriage house in 1873–74 and consolidated most farm functions into the building. He removed all of the extant farm and storage buildings except the woodshed, graded portions of the area, and planted trees and shrubs. Thereafter the east lawn was a grassy area dotted with shade trees and a few ornamental shrubs.

#### Orchard and Meadow Area.

The orchard in the lower meadow was most likely planted under the direction of Charles Francis Adams north of the house where John Adams had cultivated vegetables and grains. The slope has a northeasterly aspect. During the Vassall, Borland, and John Adams periods of ownership, fruit trees were grown within the grass panels in the garden and cider apples were possibly grown to the south of the house on the slopes of Presidents Hill.

When John and Abigail Adams owned the property, the western edge of the orchard and meadow area along the Beale property was lined with a row of Lombardy poplar and cleared to the north and east and under cultivation. John Quincy replaced the row of Lombardy poplar row with a mix of seedlings that he collected in his travels. During the Charles Francis and Brooks periods, the western edge grew up with a mix of tree species, including black oak, American elm, hackberry, linden, shagbark hickory, pignut hickory, white ash, and black walnut. The 1936 survey recorded the location and size of these trees.

During John and Abigail Adams' ownership, the area to the north of the lower meadow was cultivated for crops, thus there was probably minimal vegetation along the Furnace Brook corridor. In the 1910s, during Brooks Adams' tenure, construction of the Furnace Brook Parkway and channeling the brook likely resulted in the removal of most vegetation. In the early 1900s shade trees were planted along the new parkway.

The eastern edge of the meadow was impacted by the construction of the rail line in the 1840s and Newport Avenue in the 1870s. A stone boundary wall constructed by the park service in the 1960s provides a degree of separation between the meadow area and Newport Avenue.

During the John and Abigail Adams period of ownership, the lowest portion of the meadow presented a challenge due to its marshy condition. John Adams excavated the low spot and created a pond to collect the water, which was used in one instance to put out a fire. John Adams may have also cultivated part of this area, but the precise areas that were under cultivation are unclear. It appears that John Quincy maintained the area with no changes during his residency. In the late nineteenth century, Charles Francis installed clay tiles to improve drainage, but without success. Brooks Adams removed the pond and filled in the area in the early 1900s and moved or replaced a greenhouse to the middle of the meadow area. In the mid 1960s, the park restored the duck pond.

#### Post-historic and Existing Conditions:

##### Building Cluster.

The house, carriage house, stone library, woodshed, and greenhouse remain in the same location. Generally each building can be seen from the others, but they are not linked in their placement or with carefully executed designed landscape elements, reflecting the rural character of the estate and the accretion of buildings to serve different functions over four generations of stewardship.

#### Entry Area and Garden Area.

The basic structure and layout of the Old House entry and garden remains the same as it was during the four generations of Adams ownership (Figure 16). The lilacs along the entry walk have diminished in size and only a couple of the large elms that surrounded the area have been replaced, creating a more open feeling than that of the end of the period of significance in 1927. In the garden, the magnolias remain along the south wall, the yellowwood tree remains as the only tree within the boxwood hedges, and the walnut tree still marks the western boundary (Figure 17). Large elms that lined the southern wall and western edge of the entry and garden area are now gone. The flower beds, which benefit from the sunlight allowed by the missing shade trees, are still full throughout the summer months and boxwood hedges line the walkways (Figure 18).

#### East Lawn Area.

The east lawn appears as it did at the end of the historic period in 1927. The area is bounded by a stone wall along Adams Street and Newport Avenue. The carriage house, woodshed and driveway mark the northeastern boundary of the area. Large, mature deciduous trees are located throughout, providing a deep shade in the summer.

#### Meadow Area.

Features within the meadow area that remain from the historic period are the irregular grid of mixed fruit, walnut, and ornamental trees, small greenhouse, and the duck pond—all of which contribute to the rural character of the property. In the spring, flowering bulbs that were planted by the park fill the space. These are eventually overgrown by meadow grasses, which the park does not cut until they form seed heads, as was the case during the historic period. Surrounding the space are a row of trees of mixed species along the western edge of the property, a thick stand of trees to the north, and a mature elm tree to the east with a few other smaller replacement trees. Collectively the trees to the west, north, and the elm to the east frame the meadow space, as they did at the end of the historic period.

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature:	Building Cluster
Feature Identification Number:	156535
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Entry Area
Feature Identification Number:	156537
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	Garden Area
Feature Identification Number:	156539
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature: East Lawn Area

Feature Identification Number: 156541

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Orchard and Meadow Area

Feature Identification Number: 156543

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 16. View of kitchen entrance doorway to the garden area with honeysuckle and trumpet vine growing over the trellis, looking west. (OCLP 2011)*





*Figure 17. View looking southeast at the and flower garden, enclosed on two sides by the stone library and Old House. Note the two wooden benches and the massive yellowwood tree. The overhanging branches of the black walnut are at top left. (OCLP 2011)*



*Figure 18. View looking east at the yellowwood and one of the garden walkways. The walkways continue to be maintained with raked, crushed stone. Also note the flagpole south of the house. (OCLP 2011)*

## Land Use

The lands in and around Peacefield were historically devoted to crops, orchards, and gardens. These uses continue today, though at a much smaller scale.

### Historic Conditions:

#### Agriculture.

Cultivating the land was essential to life in eighteenth century New England. Every rural household maintained corn fields, vegetable gardens, and orchards to provide food. Enough crops had to be produced to store and use over the long winter months. During the John Adams and John Quincy Adams' periods, the land north of the house was planted with corn, and vegetables were cultivated in several areas, including northwest of the house and between the house and the cornfield. The Vassalls, Borlands, John Adams, and John Quincy Adams also tended a wide variety of fruit tree, berry shrubs, and vines growing in the garden west of the house, including apple, pear, and peach trees. Charles Francis removed the fruit trees from the garden and planted an orchard further north in the lower meadow, which was preserved and maintained by his son Brooks Adams. A 1936 survey shows some thirty apples, twenty pears, and two cherry trees in the orchard in the lower meadow. All four generations of Adamses also mention peach trees, which, being short lived, would have required frequent replanting. Elsewhere, most likely on the slopes of Presidents Hill, each generation maintained a cider orchard, though most of the land was sold by the early 1900s.

#### Garden.

In 1731, the Vassalls installed a rectangular garden divided into four plots separated by boxwood hedges from England. The garden contained ornamental plants and productive fruit trees, berries, vegetables, and herbs. At the western end of the garden, the Vassalls constructed an octagonal summer house in 1731. When John and Abigail Adams purchased the house in 1787, Abigail planted additional fruit trees, flowers, herbs, and vegetables in the garden and designated one plot as a kitchen garden, increasing the garden's use as a source of food.

John Adams likely removed the dilapidated summer house, but left its foundation. Years later, John Quincy Adams used that foundation as a seedling nursery. An area north of the garden became John Quincy's tree laboratory where he conducted horticultural experiments. Over the years, John Quincy continued to add fruit trees to garden as well as other species, such as the American yellowwood tree, which still stands today.

The garden retained its original rectangular layout until 1870 when Charles Francis Adams removed the northeast bed, which contained the kitchen garden plot, to accommodate the stone library. He planted vines and shrubs in front of the library.

Charles Francis and Abigail Brooks Adams kept the garden plots in their original form, but replaced all existing vegetables and fruit trees with an elaborate perennial and annual flower garden. Perennials included peony, tree peony, daisy, dahlia, iris, coral bells, phlox, larkspur, poppy, veronica, balloon flower, columbine, salvia and New England asters. A variety of annuals such as marigolds, zinnias, snapdragons, strawflower, and nasturtiums filled in spaces.



Tropical plants such as elephant ears and castor beans added exotic foliage. Charles and Abigail also planted flowering shrubs on the property including mock orange, lilacs, and rhododendrons.

In the 1890s, Brooks Adams planted a rose garden on the site of John Quincy's nursery north of the garden. In the 1890s, he moved Abigail Adams' York rose to the rose garden where it could receive more sun. He also planted additional shrubs in the garden area, as well as a Japanese maple near the rose garden.

The Adams Memorial Society removed the rose garden due to a lack of funds for proper maintenance. It received minimal care until the National Park Service acquired the site and initiated a program to preserve and maintain the garden.

**Post-historic and Existing Conditions:**

**Agriculture.**

The only evidence of agriculture that exists today is the orchard north of the house, which is predominantly apple and pear trees. New trees are added as replacements. A small cultivated plot near the greenhouse, known as the reserve garden, contains propagated boxwood shrubs and perennials.

**Garden.**

The overall land use, layout, and appearance of the flower garden have essentially remained the same since the Charles Francis Adams period. The ornamental flower garden, one of the main attractions for summer visitors, is maintained with the boxwood hedge and grass center plots. The plantings in the garden are similar to those planted by Abigail Brooks Adams as well as Brooks Adams. Mockorange shrubs still dot the garden, and the rhododendrons in the southwest corner appear healthy. Abigail Adams' York rose grows prominently to the north of the garden beds (Figure 19). The yellowwood tree remains in its location in the southwest quadrant, but is declining (see Figure 18). The sweet bay magnolias persist on the south side of the garden (Figure 20). Overall, the garden appears as it did in 1927, reflecting the layout of the Colonial period and the vegetation of the Charles Francis and Brooks Adams' periods. Today, visitors and educational programs regularly visit the flower garden.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 19. View looking north at the trellis north of the formal garden, supporting the York rose first planted by Abigail Adams. Brooks Adams relocated the rose to this area in 1890. (OCLP 2011)*



*Figure 20. View, looking south, at the sweet bay magnolias south of the garden. Also note the stone boundary wall along Adams Street. (OCLP 2011)*

### **Topography**

Historic and Existing Conditions:

Terrace and Slope.

The house and its associated outbuildings and garden were constructed in 1731 on a flat terrace on the north site of the main road between Boston and the South Shore. To the north of the house the land sloped gradually down to the Furnace Brook. The first major re-grading of the Adams property took place in the 1840s when the Old Colony Rail Line was constructed on a berm to the east of the property, cutting across land owned by John Quincy and Louisa Catherine Adams and diminishing views to the east. The second major intrusion occurred in the 1870s when Quincy constructed Newport Avenue, again taking a strip of land from the Adams parcel. At this time Charles Francis carried out extensive grading to the north and east of the house in association with the stone library and carriage house and the driveway across the property. The grading resulted in a broader flat area north and east of the house and a steeper slope from the upper flat terrace down to the lower meadow and duck pond area. The third major intrusion occurred in the early 1900s when the Metropolitan Park Commission constructed Furnace Brook Parkway, which involved extensive grading and filling, while the brook was contained in a channel. The expansion of Adams Street in the early 1900s resulted in the road being at a higher elevation than the Peace field site, as evidenced by the steps down from the sidewalk to the house main entry way. When the road grade was raised, the hitching posts were partially buried thereby reducing their apparent height.

Since the early 1900s, no alterations have been made to the topography of the site. The existing topography, manipulated in several areas, contributes to the historic character of the site (Figures 21, 22, and 23).



**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Terrace and Slope

Feature Identification Number: 156545

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Figure 21. View looking west at Furnace Brook in a granite block channel. The brook flows east along the parkway to the right. Shrubs and trees along the perimeter provide a partial visual screen. The Beale house is visible in the distance. (OCLP 2010)*



*Figure 22. View looking northeast at the trees and carriage house north of the east lawn. Note the sloping topography to the north. (OCLP 2011)*



*Figure 23. View looking south toward the stone library. The duck pond occupies the forefront while in the distance to the west stands one of the reconstructed hay bales. Note the sloping topography. (OCLP 2011)*

### **Vegetation**

Historic and Existing Conditions:  
Elms in Front of Old House.



A series of nineteenth-century illustrations of the Old House depict an increasing number of trees between the house and boundary wall to the east and west of the entry gates. The earliest known illustration, a painting done in 1798, shows no trees. An 1820s sketch shows one young tree in front of the house, which was likely a horsechestnut planted around 1790 that stood in front of the house until the early 1900s. An 1831 painting by Eliza Susan Quincy shows the growing horsechestnut tree and three elms to the east of the house. An 1846 engraving shows three small trees directly in front of the house and the horsechestnut—by this time taller than the house. An 1849 daguerreotype shows fruit trees at the southeast corner of the garden, elms on the south side of the road, the large horsechestnut at the front of the house to the east of the walkways. Photographs from the 1880s show an elm and catalpa in front of the house, to the west of the walkways, and the horsechestnut to the east. Additional elms are visible on the south side of Adams Street. Another photo taken at about the same time shows at least four elms to the east of the house in the east lawn area. By the 1920s, the horsechestnut tree was gone and two elms were framing the front of the house.

The 1936 survey shows a thirty-six inch diameter elm about ten feet to the west of the entry walkways and a thirty-inch elm about forty feet to the east of the walkways. Twentieth century postcards show that the trees were limbed up high above the house. In the 1960s and 70s, many of the elms planted in the mid 1800s succumbed to Dutch elm disease and were removed. The elm to the southwest of the house proved to be more resilient, remaining into the 1980s.

The elms in front of Old House have been replanted. Beginning in about 1990 the park experimented with disease resistant varieties of elms. One elm planted in the early 1990s and two young elms planted recently are growing in front of the house.

#### American Yellowwood Tree in Garden.

According to the Adams family, John Quincy and Louisa Catherine planted the American yellowwood tree inside the southwest garden bed after the death of their son George Washington Adams in 1830. They possibly brought a seed or seedling from their residence at Meridian Hill in Washington, D.C. The yellowwood tree is directly in line with the upstairs window in the Old House, where Louisa Catherine had a writing desk. The yellowwood was also one of Brooks Adams' favorite trees and he especially admired it in bloom.

The yellowwood tree remains in the flower garden today, but is in a state of decline. In 2006 a major rehabilitation project installed cables to prevent the heavy branches from splitting the tree (see Figure 18).

#### Sweet Bay Magnolias at South Edge of Garden.

Abigail Adams planted the two sweet bay magnolias in the garden area along the fence parallel to the road. The trees appear on the 1936 survey drawing and 1948 and 1969 site maps. An image from the 1960s shows the two magnolias in need of some pruning. Wilhelmina Harris noted that the plants regenerated from the roots of the original plant. Today, the sweet bay

magnolias are still inside the garden along the southern property wall and are in good condition (see Figure 20).

#### Black Walnut by Garden.

John Quincy Adams refers to the black walnut tree, located northwest of the garden as his shagbark walnut that he planted in 1808 prior to his ownership of Peace field. Its location marked the northwest corner of his tree nursery. The area to the east of the tree later became Brooks Adams' rose garden and many trees were removed, but the walnut tree remained in place. Several other trees grew along the property line west of the garden during the historic period. After the removal of the Vassall/Borland summer house, John Quincy used the foundation as a tree nursery. Little documentation exists for this area from the time that he initially planted trees in the foundation in the 1820s to the 1930s. However, a survey in 1936 depicts seven trees to the west of the garden along the Adams/Beale property line, including American elm, hackberry, and white ash. The elms were twenty-four inches in diameter, thus either originated during John Quincy's nursery planting years or were planted by Charles Francis.

The park service gradually removed the trees. A 1969 map indicates that the last elm west of the garden was removed by this time. Thereafter, a grove of Norway maple grew up at the southwest corner of the garden, by Adams Street. The 1994 Historic Plant Inventory documented six Norway maples on the Beale side of the property line.

The black walnut tree at the northwest corner of the garden survives in a healthy and stable condition, although it leans slightly to the south (see Figure 17). Other trees along the west side of the garden are gone. A stand of Norway maples on the Beale property plus the mature black walnut to the north provide a partial sense of enclosure for the garden area.

#### East Lawn Trees and Shrubs.

Located at the southeastern corner of the Peace field site, the east lawn area underwent many significant changes throughout the historic period. Originally a farmyard, Charles Francis transformed the area when Newport Avenue was built in 1873. Charles Francis removed farm buildings, constructed the carriage house, relocated the woodshed, and graded the land. Finally, he planted a number of deciduous trees and several ornamental shrubs in this area. These trees continued to thrive during the Brooks Adams period when he removed the east portico of the house.

A survey drawing from the 1936 shows many mature trees dotting the lawn, including American elm, yellowwood, American beech, Norway maple, sycamore maple, white ash, and horsechestnut. When the National Park Service acquired the site in 1946, the grove of trees provided a very densely shaded corner. As the trees matured, the park removed crowded and declining trees.

The stand of mature deciduous trees currently occupies the east lawn, many dating to the

historic period of significance, including an American elm, beech, and horsechestnut (Figure 24). The shrubs are no longer extant.

#### Trees in Adams Street Sidewalk.

Two red oaks stand in tree wells in the sidewalk along Adams Street. The City of Quincy likely planted these trees, which are thirty to forty years old and do not date to the period of significance. As the trees are relatively young, they do not compete with the adjacent historic trees within the east lawn area and lean into the street for sunlight.

#### Trees on Slope West of Carriage House and North of House.

Charles Francis first planted trees on the slope west of the carriage house as part of his efforts to transform the property into a country estate. After the construction of the carriage house, Charles Francis placed a number of deciduous trees, including Norway maple, beech, elm and horsechestnut trees, on the grass slope. An image from the 1940s show mature shade trees forming an enclosed border along the carriage house drive.

Today, some trees cast shade on the slope of the carriage and north of the carriage house, including Norway maples, horsechestnut, European beech, and English elm (see Figure 22). However, the total number of trees has diminished, from some twenty trees in 1936 to ten in 1994.

#### Tree Cluster North and East of Duck Pond.

No documentation exists for the area north of the duck pond for John Adams and John Quincy Adams time periods. An 1870 photograph from Wollaston Heights shows the area as relatively open with some very young trees in the meadow area and a cluster of evergreens—most likely pine and cedar—in the area north and east of the duck pond. Brooks Adams constructed a 2-car garage in this area in 1916 and the park service removed the structure in 1951.

The 1936 survey recorded stands of elms, chokecherry, and horsechestnut to the north and east of the duck pond, roughly between the greenhouse and west of the garage. Based on the dimensions of the elms, Charles Francis most likely planted or retained these trees. By the 1990s, the chokecherry, a vigorous self-seeding species, had established in this area, with a small grove thriving near the former garage site. The trees were subsequently removed. A very mature elm, young catalpa, and several young replacement cherries now grow in this area (Figures 25 and 26).

#### Orchard.

During the Vassall/Borland and John Adams periods, a cider orchard grew to south of the house and garden, most likely on land beyond the current park boundary. The existing orchard north of the house and garden most likely dates to Charles Francis Adams' time, when he removed the fruit trees from the garden. Documentation has not been found to date the earliest planting in this orchard. However, an 1870 photograph from Wollaston Heights shows very young evergreen and deciduous trees in the meadow area. In the 1840s through 1870s, Charles



Francis transplanted many of the seedling trees from his father's nursery beds around the garden to other locations on the property and other land parcels. Charles Francis and Abigail Brooks likely removed the fruit trees in the garden by 1869, when they transitioned the garden to strictly flowers. In the late 1800s and early 1900s the orchard was maintained by Brooks Adams who continued to plant replacement trees and oversee their care.

A plan from 1936 depicts irregular rows of fruit trees in the orchard area that appear to be mature, full grown specimens, including over fifty apple, pear, and cherry trees. The National Park Service continued to maintain the orchard, replacing dead trees and protecting existing trees. The orchard currently consists of sixteen apple trees, six pear, two mulberry, one hackberry, three walnut, one catalpa, and one elm tree (Figure 26). The trees receive pruning, spraying, and other maintenance as needed. Propagation provides replacements.

#### Trees Bordering Furnace Brook.

In the eighteenth and mid-nineteenth century, Furnace Brook ran through Peace field. Trees most likely grew along the bank, but the earliest reference regarding specific vegetation along the brook came at the end of the Charles Francis period when it was noted that a number of trees lined the edge of the brook, including willow trees. Between 1904 and 1916, the Metropolitan District Commission constructed the Furnace Brook Parkway, necessitating the re-routing of the brook and likely involved removing trees and other vegetation.

The 1936 plan shows a number of willow trees and a horsechestnut bordering Furnace Brook. Over the years, volunteer trees filled in the border, creating dense vegetation. The trees and shrubs currently along Furnace Brook provide some screening of the parkway. Most are volunteer growth, but a row of dogwood trees, origin unknown, line the southern edge of the border (see Figure 21).

#### Trees Bordering West Boundary.

Abigail Adams first referred to trees planted along the western boundary of the property in 1800 when she ordered fifty poplar trees to be planted in a row. Due to their short life span, these trees most likely died out within fifty years. In 1835, John Quincy's constructed a fence along this boundary and planted new trees alongside. In the 1850s, Charles Francis purchased sixty deciduous trees, some of which may have been planted along the west boundary.

The 1936 plan depicts a number of trees, including hackberry, black oak, American elm, shagbark hickory, and linden trees irregularly spaced along the boundary. The size of the trees suggests that the older trees dated to the John Quincy Adams' period of ownership. Currently, the west boundary contains clusters of informally arranged trees including red oak, Norway maples, black walnut, and hickory species (Figure 27).

#### Vines on Structures.

Over the course of the period of significance, different members of the Adams family cultivated various species on vines on structures located throughout Peace field, including Dutchman's

pipe, grape, honeysuckle, Boston ivy, wisteria, and roses.

Dutchman's pipe. This vine currently grows on the west end of the front porch, as well as on the stone boundary wall between the sweet bay magnolias and the west entry gate. The 1936 survey notes the species, though its location is not specified. The 1969 and 1994 plant inventories record the vine in these two locations.

Grape: At least two species of grape existed during the historical period. The 1936 survey depicts them on the stone boundary wall and trellis north of the garden, near the York rose. Historic photographs also show grapes trained to the front porch. The 1969 plan shows the grapes remaining on the east end of the front porch and along the stone boundary wall, but the trellis structure north of the garden is gone. The 1994 inventory indicates that only the river grapes on the porch remained. French grape still remains on the west end of the boundary wall.

Japanese honeysuckle vine . This vine is trained to the north side of the steps and door from the house into the garden (see Figure 16). This plant may date to Abigail Brooks' time at Peace field, since Abigail introduced many plants to the garden in 1870s. The 1936, 1948, and 1969 surveys do not show the vine in its current location.

Boston ivy. These vines are growing around the foundation of the stone library and were most likely installed after the construction of the library in 1869. Andrew Jackson Downing, who greatly influenced landscape trends at the time, advocated for a picturesque landscape design for Gothic Revival cottages, which included integrating the architecture with the landscape, including vines. Boston ivy still grows on the north, east, and west façades of the stone library and the stone boundary wall, both in good condition.

Wisteria. Abigail Adams first planted wisteria on the west side of the Old House where it has flourished ever since. Images of the wisteria appear as early as the 1830s when a drawing of the house and grounds shows a vine growing up the west side of the house along a trellis in front of the chimney. Photographs taken in the 1920s show how the vine overwhelms the space, reaching to the top of the house. Wisteria also grows at the southwest corner of the house and south of the stone library, filling the area to the west of the front porch.

Mannetti climbing rose. This rose grows on a trellis beside the northeast porch at the back of the Old House and is good condition. The 1936, 1948, and 1969 plans do not document this rose, but it is identified on the 1994 historic plant inventory.

#### Shrubs Surrounding Garden.

Lilacs. The lilacs are the most prevalent shrub surrounding the garden. When John and Abigail Adams acquired the house in 1787, Abigail planted purple lilac shrubs, with three evenly spaced on both sides of the front walkway from the road to the house entrance. A photograph of the house from June 1887 shows lilacs filling the front entrance area and reaching to the second

floor of the house. Today, only two lilac shrubs remain midway down the front entrance pathway, just before the garden pathway intersects with the front entrance pathway. The lilac to the west has been trimmed to between five and six feet tall, and the lilac to the east is a very small, recently propagated shrub (Figure 28).

A lilac hedge grows to the north of the garden. This grouping of lilacs dates either to the Charles Francis and Abigail Brooks Adams or Brooks and Evelyn Adams time periods. Clusters of lilacs in a broken row are depicted on the 1936 survey. The 1969 plan shows the lilac stand as much more extensive. Most of the trees that grew just to the north of the row of lilacs by the 1930s were gone by the 1960s. Approximately seven to eight feet high and five feet wide, the lilac hedge still defines the northern border of the flower garden area along with the stone library to the east and the walnut tree to the west.

The 1936 plan also shows a lilac in the southwest corner of the garden, near the rhododendrons and stone boundary wall; a lilac along the driveway in the east lawn, southwest of the carriage house; and a lilac at the northeast corner of the house, by the 1800s addition. The lilac in the southwest corner of the garden was gone by 1948. The lilac in the east lawn does not appear on subsequent maps.

Mockorange. These shrubs grew in four locations during the historic period and remain in three of these locations. Five mockorange grew at the southwest corner of the Old House and are documented on the 1936 survey. By 1948, four mockorange remained in this location. By 1969, three remained. In 1994, four mockorange grew in this location.

The 1936 and 1948 plans show two mockorange growing at the southwest corner of the garden, near the rhododendrons and stone boundary wall. By 1969, these two mockorange were gone. The 1936 plan shows a single mockorange growing to the southwest of the library. This plant is shown on the 1948 and 1969 plans. The 1936 plan also shows a mockorange at the northeast corner of the house, by the 1800s addition and growing next to a Vanhoutte spirea and lilac.

Rhododendrons. Abigail Brooks Adams first planted rhododendrons around the garden in the 1870s, specifically in the southwest corner and possibly in the northwest corner. Abigail Brooks transformed the garden into an ornamental garden featuring long perennial flower beds surrounding grass plots where the fruit trees once stood. The Catawba rhododendron cluster is still extant at the southwest corner of the garden. The 1969 plan shows rhododendrons at the northwest corner of the garden, however, these were not recorded on the earlier 1936 plan.

Sweet shrub. The 1936 survey shows two sweet shrubs at the east edge of the rectangular garden bed, near the house. The shrubs appear in the same location on the 1948 plan, but only one is shown on the 1969 plan—in a different location at the southeast corner of the library. One sweet shrub remains at the southeast corner of the library.

#### Boxwood Hedges.

In the early 1700s, the Vassalls first planted boxwood hedges in the garden west of the house. The boxwood hedges enclosed the rectangular planting beds and further emphasized the geometry of the garden layout. They were retained by the Adamses and maintained throughout the historic period. The boxwood hedges are still extant and maintained. The hedges remain in fairly good condition today, with sections replaced periodically with cuttings propagated on the grounds.

#### Forsythia Row.

The 1936 survey lists weeping forsythia as one of the shrub species present at Peace field. Subsequent inventories in 1948, 1969, and 1994 do not show the shrub in the house or garden area. However, the 1994 historic plant inventory documented forsythia at the northeast corner of the 1800s addition to the Old House, and by Furnace Brook. Today, forsythia continues to grow in a row at the north east corner of the property by Furnace Brook (see Figure 21).

#### York Rose.

The York rose is one of the most significant plants on the property. In June 1788, Abigail Adams returned to America after living in France and England for four years, bringing with her cuttings of two roses including the white, single-petal Rose of York, or Yorkshire Rose, and the red Rose of Lancaster. They were fashionable flowers at the time, symbolizing the monarchical crisis between the Houses of York and Lancaster in the fifteenth century. It is believed that Abigail first planted the York Rose in the front dooryard outside the paneled room and near the low stone wall at the property entrance. In 1890, Brooks Adams moved the rose to a sunnier location on the north side of the garden.

The York rose survives today in the location Brooks Adams moved it to north of the garden (see Figure 19). The rose appears hardy, supported by a black painted wooden trellis. A second York rose bush grows nearby in the planting beds. Another York, planted by park staff, grows along the stone wall north of the carriage house along Newport Avenue.

#### Lancaster Rose.

As noted above, Abigail Adams planted two roses, the Rose of York and the Rose of Lancaster, or Apothecary's rose. The red-flowering Rose of Lancaster subsequently declined and was removed during the historic period. The park planted a replacement Lancaster rose in the garden beds, near the York rose.

#### Perennials and Bulbs.

The Adams initially used the garden as a fruit orchard and vegetable garden with some ornamental flowers interspersed throughout. After removing the fruit trees in 1870, Abigail Brooks Adams installed formal perennial borders featuring a wide variety of plants, as was the fashion of the time. Brooks Adams continued his mother's work and managed the upkeep of these beds. After the National Park Service acquired the site in 1946, Wilhelmina Harris was brought on staff and provided an accurate record regarding the plant types and layout of the

borders that is still in use today.

As early as 1788, Abigail began planting flowers in the front yard, in addition to shrubs and trees. Flowers included daffodils, nasturtiums, columbine, and larkspur. When Charles Francis took control of the property, his wife, Abigail Brooks planted flowerbeds along the front fence and portico. When Brooks Adams built a new front gate entrance, his wife, Daisy, planted ferns along each side of the gate and replaced some of the existing perennials with candy grass along the front piazza.

Annuals and perennials still fill the garden beds each spring, summer, and fall and are a major feature of the historic landscape. The National Park Service staff began planting large quantities of spring bulbs (mostly daffodils) in the orchard in the 1980s. As part of a youth initiative, additional 3,000 daffodil bulbs were added to the orchard area in 2007.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Elms in Front of Old House

Feature Identification Number: 156547

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: American Yellowwood Tree in Garden

Feature Identification Number: 156549

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Sweet Bay Magnolias at South Edge of Garden

Feature Identification Number: 156551

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Black Walnut by Garden

Feature Identification Number: 156553

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: East Lawn Trees and Shrubs

Feature Identification Number: 156555

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trees in Adams Street Sidewalk

Feature Identification Number: 156557

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Trees on Slope West of Carriage House and North of Carriage House

Feature Identification Number: 156559

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree Cluster North and East of Duck Pond

Feature Identification Number: 156561

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Orchard

Feature Identification Number: 156563

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trees Bordering Furnace Brook

Feature Identification Number: 156565

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Trees Bordering West Boundary

Feature Identification Number: 156567

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Vines on Structures

Feature Identification Number: 156569

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Shrubs Surrounding Garden

Feature Identification Number: 156571

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Boxwood Hedges

Feature Identification Number: 156573

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Forsythia Row

Feature Identification Number: 156575

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: York Rose

Feature Identification Number: 156577

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Lancaster Rose

Feature Identification Number: 156579

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Roses along Wall North of Carriage House

Feature Identification Number: 156581

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Annual and Perennial Beds

Feature Identification Number: 156583

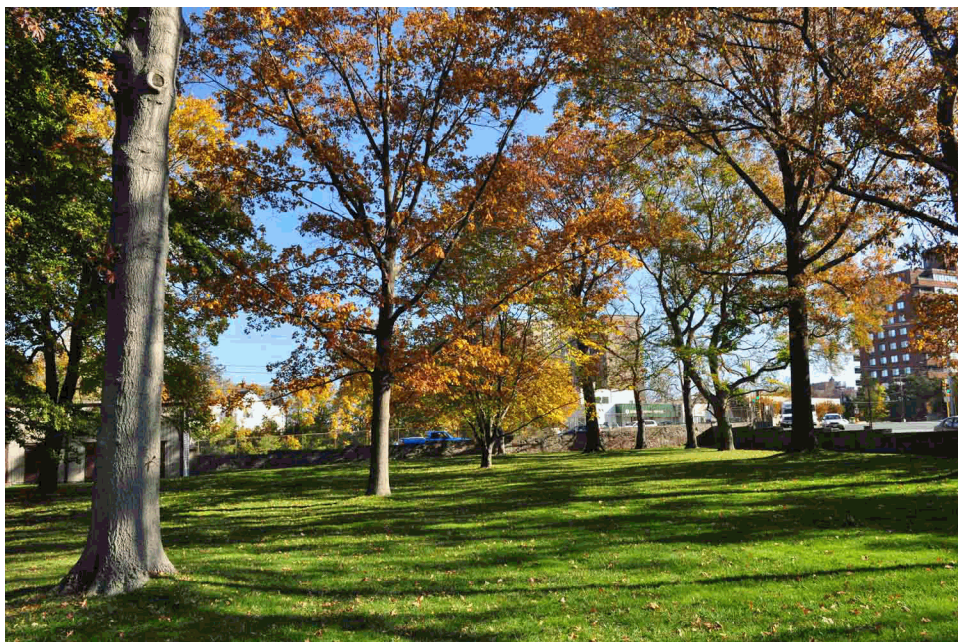
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Bulbs in Orchard

Feature Identification Number: 156585

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**

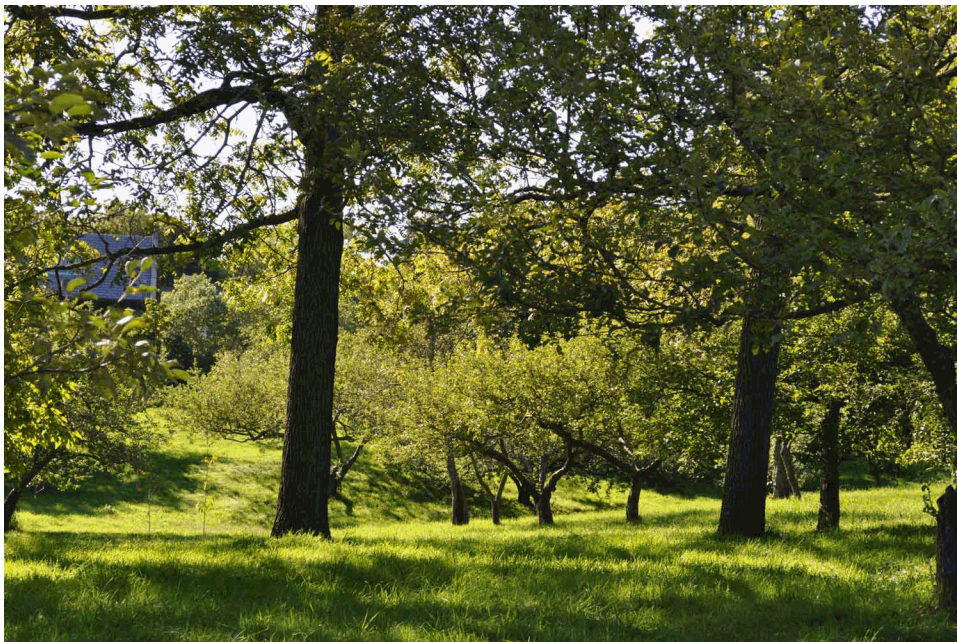




*Figure 24. View looking east at trees in the east lawn bounded by a stone wall along the corner of Adams Street and Newport Avenue. In the distance to the northeast is the woodshed. To the southeast, a high rise compromises the historic view. (OCLP 2011)*



*Figure 25. View looking north at the meadow area. The drying yard is the foreground, with the duck pond, greenhouse, hay bale in the distance. Also note the MBTA Red Line train to the northeast. (OCLP 2011)*



*Figure 26. View looking south at the orchard area. The stone library is visible in the distance. (OCLP 2011)*





*Figure 27. View looking west at pathway along the western perimeter of Peace field, which is used by park maintenance. The Beale estate is in the distance. (OCLP 2011)*



*Figure 28. View looking east at the front portico and lawn area of the house with the east lawn beyond. Note vines covering the front portico, the lilacs, the flagstone pathway leading to the front entrance, and the flagpole in the distance. (OCLP 2011)*

### **Circulation**

Many of Peace field's historic circulation features remain today, including the sidewalks along

Adams and Newport streets and the flagstone entry walkways that lead to the Old House. Stonedust paths still define the garden, and the gravel driveway and carriage house courtyard retain their historic configurations.

Historic Conditions:

Sidewalks on Adams Street and Newport Avenue.

The sidewalks along both Adams Street and Newport Avenue were present during the historic period. The first documented indication of a sidewalk on Adams Street appeared in a c.1850 woodcut illustrating the property viewed from the road (see Figure 6). Two figures appear to be standing on a sidewalk in front of the Old House. The paving material is unknown. Another image from 1870 shows a sidewalk along Adams Street blending into the road and may have consisted of compacted earth. On Newport Avenue, the first sidewalk was most likely constructed in conjunction with the new road in 1873. Carriage house construction began the same year, and the building was located along the edge of the sidewalk on Newport Avenue.

Old House Flagstone Entry Walkways.

When the house was built in 1731, one walkway led from the road to the front entrance. When John and Abigail Adams expanded the house in 1800, they added a second entrance and walkway to the east of the original door. There are several references to “stones” that are connected with the walkways. Helen Skeen refers to them as being sandstone and placed in front of the west door. They were discarded and buried nearby, but Brooks Adams unearthed them and reinstalled them. It is unclear as to whether or not these are the same stones as the flagstone walkway. Brooks Adams mentioned that the original door was approached by a short walk. The current walkway stones have been in place since the Brooks Adams period.

Garden Pathways.

The garden pathways were designed and laid out by the Vassalls before John and Abigail Adams purchased the property. The garden consisted of a large, rectangular flat area subdivided into four smaller, rectangular garden plots filled with fruit trees. Each pathway was lined with a boxwood hedge. A pathway leading from the main entrance at the southwest corner of the house provided access to the garden. The main garden paths proceeded through the collection of fruit trees located within and surrounding the garden. Local crushed stone may have been used for the surface material, considering the proximity of granite quarries.

The garden pathways were not altered during the John Adams and John Quincy Adams periods of ownership. During the Charles Francis Adams period, the north and eastern sections of kitchen garden plot were removed for the construction of the stone library, reducing the flower garden to three rectangular beds and one half bed. The construction of the stone library also resulted in the removal of a large section of garden pathway along the north and east sides of the garden and created a new pathway on the south and west sides of the stone library. No specific mention of garden path material/base is made until the Charles Francis Adams period when garden pathways were paved with stone. One of the earliest images of the pathways is from the 1920s, showing what appears to be crushed gravel that is raked to create an even

surface.

#### Driveway.

Constructed along with the carriage house in 1873, the driveway provided access from Newport Avenue south of the carriage house to the courtyard on the west side of the carriage house, and continued to the north side of the Old House. Soon after, the driveway was extended to loop around the carriage house and exit north of the building back onto Newport Avenue. The driveway was roughly twelve feet across most of its length with a twenty-foot wide entrance on Newport Avenue to the south of the carriage house and a twelve-foot exit to the north of the building.

#### Carriage House Courtyard.

The carriage house courtyard dates to the construction of the carriage house in 1873–74. A plan view from the Quincy City Atlas in 1897 illustrates the driveway and courtyard with a dashed line. The courtyard is also shown in the 1936 Historic American Building Survey.

#### Post-historic and Existing Conditions:

##### Sidewalks on Adams Street and Newport Avenue.

The sidewalk on Adams Street is currently concrete with granite curbing and a grass strip, roughly eighteen inches wide, between the concrete and the curb (Figure 29). On Newport Avenue, the sidewalk consists of a combination of concrete and asphalt paving with a granite curb and is not as well maintained as the sidewalk Adams Street.

##### Old House Flagstone Entry Walkways.

The Old House flagstone walkways are intact and serve the original circulation purpose of leading a direct path from the gates to both doors of the house (see Figure 28).

##### Garden Pathways.

Since 1927, no changes have been made to the garden pathways apart from continued maintenance of the boxwood border and stone dust paving (see Figure 18). Eugene Gabriel, who worked at the site from the early 1960s until the early 2000s recalled that the pathways were surfaced for many years with red stonedust, that was purchased from a local quarry and called “Braintree Red.” The exact years that the red stonedust was used is not well documented. Currently the paths have blue stone dust, with no indication of red.

#### Driveway.

The gravel driveway has been maintained and continues to function as it was originally designed and is used by park visitors and by park staff for maintenance activities. The steep portion near the north end of the carriage house was paved and chip sealed to minimize erosion and retain the historic character of the driveway. The lower driveway was paved in the 1950s with black asphalt, and then removed and replaced in 2009 adding the exposed aggregate pea stone finish chip seal.

**Carriage House Courtyard.**

The forty-five by twenty-two foot courtyard is a semi-circular space paved with pea stone gravel. It forms a transition space at the front, or west, entry of the carriage house. Within the gravel courtyard is the doghouse constructed by Brooks Adams. The driveway that connects to the courtyard extends the entire length of the carriage house, and connects on its southern end to the drive connecting Newport Avenue and the Old House, and on its northern end to Newport Avenue, by way of a short curved driveway extending downhill. The carriage house courtyard is in good condition (see Figure 22).

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Sidewalks on Adams Street and Newport Avenue

Feature Identification Number: 156587

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Old House Flagstone Entry Walkways

Feature Identification Number: 156589

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Garden Paths

Feature Identification Number: 156591

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7501

Feature: Gravel Driveway

Feature Identification Number: 156593

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Carriage House Courtyard

Feature Identification Number: 156595

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**





*Figure 29. View looking north at the house and entry along Adams Street. Depicted is the eastern of the two entrances with wood gates set between granites pillars topped with ornamental urns. (OCLP 2011)*

### **Buildings and Structures**

The Old House at Peace field continues to be the focus of the property. The historic stone library, carriage house, woodshed, greenhouse also remain, while the reconstructed dog house remains in its original location. The front gates and wall and the stone wall along the south and east property lines are still present, but a new wall has been added north of the carriage house.

#### **Historic Conditions:**

##### **Old House.**

The Vassall family built the original core of the Old House in 1731. At first, the house was a two-story plus attic frame structure of post-and-beam construction sheathed with clapboards and erected on a low foundation of local stone set in mortar. The family designed the house in the Georgian style, which was characterized by symmetry, as seen in the seven bays across the front façade with a central doorway. The building originally contained four rooms, and was one-room deep. A Gambrel roof lined with windows presented the house along the street as a three-story structure. Additions and alterations occurred throughout the historic period, beginning with John and Abigail Adams' addition at the east end, nearly doubling the size of the house. They also added a second entrance on the south façade, along with a portico and windows to the west side. Later additions included a two-story north passage, a servant's wing at the northwestern corner of the house, and another portico on the eastern façade of the house, which was later removed. Subsequent family members installed improvements such as indoor plumbing, gas lines, and electricity. The family referred to the building as the Old House, Old Mansion, or Adams Mansion.

#### Stone Library.

In 1869, Charles Francis Adams hired architect Edward Clark Cabot (1818–1901) to design and build the stone library, which is representative of the Victorian Eclectic or Gothic Revival style. Cabot attained notoriety for his design of the Boston Athenaeum in the 1840s as well as for his watercolor paintings. He designed many private residences in Boston's Back Bay and was a founder and first president of the Boston Society of Architects. The stone library features brick quoins and massive stone brackets at the main entrance, and French doors located on three sides. Once constructed, Charles Francis installed a weathervane belonging to John Adams on the roof, and spent long hours in the library preparing his father's diary for publication.

#### Carriage House.

Charles Francis constructed the carriage house after removing the cluster of farm buildings that originally occupied the site. In his effort to create a gentleman's estate, the carriage house was designed in the Gothic Revival style, providing an imposing presence on the newly constructed Newport Avenue on the eastern edge of the property. The u-shaped building was constructed of granite, fieldstone, and brick, and featured a central tower and spire.

#### Woodshed.

John and Abigail Adams constructed the woodshed in 1799–1800, replacing an existing one that was converted to another use. The one-story shed-roof building was originally sited between the farmhouse and corncrib, forming a straight line as the northern boundary of the farmyard. Charles Francis moved the woodshed to its present location in 1873 as part of the reorganization of the property and new construction on the eastern boundary. The building featured three doorways trimmed with blind arches, a cedar shingle roof, and dirt floor. The building was set on a partial foundation to compensate for the change in grade along Newport Avenue.

#### Dog House.

Brooks Adams built a dog house in the carriage house courtyard around 1905 for his Irish and Scottish terriers. It was constructed of wood on a brick foundation and a shingle roof, evidently imitating the Victorian Gothic architectural style of the carriage house. It significantly represents the site's domestic traditions. In addition, the intended duplication of the architectural styles of the two features, built in different centuries by father and son, demonstrates the familial and multi-generational aspect of the property.

#### Greenhouse.

The earliest reference to a greenhouse appears during the Charles Francis Adams period, specifically 1873. It is unclear whether the current greenhouse is the same structure Charles Francis built. Eugene Gabriel, who worked at the site from the 1960s to early 2000s, pointed out that the carriage house north facade shows a roof tar trace of a former potting shed that extended from the building, which was likely used for storage rather than growing plants. The 1897 and 1907 maps of Quincy produced by G. W. Stadly and Company show the footprint of a

greenhouse-type structure to the north of the garden and northwest of the stone library. A protrusion of the structure, possibly a doorway, aligns with the north to south path across the center of the garden.

The National Register documentation states that Brooks Adams most likely built the current greenhouse in the lower meadow and it occupies the site of an earlier greenhouse. The one story structure has glazed operable window sections, which are fitted into either side of a gabled wood frame that rests on a concrete foundation. The National Park Service continued to use the greenhouse when it acquired the site and maintained the building.

#### Front Gates and Wall.

The Adams family modified the front gates and wall throughout the period of significance. Initially, the entry to the Old House consisted of a wood picket fence painted white. In 1800, Abigail Adams added a second gated entrance to the house east of the original entrance. In 1831, Charles Francis replaced the old wooden fence along the front of the house with a low stone wall, topped by a wooden picket fence with two gates set between four granite posts. In 1869, Charles Francis replaced the picket fence with a new wooden lattice fence with matching entry gates. Brooks Adams then designed and installed a new gated entry in 1906 with a brick wall and wooden gates topped with carved wooden urns. The wooden gates consisted of six panels with decorative spindles on top and bracketed by fourteen-inch square granite pillars.

#### Property Stone Wall (along South and East Boundaries).

Multiple generations of Adams built the stone wall surrounding the Peace field property on the southern and eastern boundaries in multiple stages. In the 1790s, John Adams constructed a stone wall from the main entry to the house and extended it to the western boundary, separating the property from the road located to the south. In 1841, working for his father John Quincy, Charles Francis initiated a project to build a stone wall around the Old House property from the house entry gates to the southeast corner of the site. Charles Francis also rebuilt the portion by John Adams to increase the height. When Charles Francis built the carriage house and moved the woodshed to its present location, he constructed another section of the wall that extended from the corner of Adams Street and Newport Avenue northward to the entrance drive, separating the property from the new avenue.

#### Property Stone Wall (North of Carriage House).

In the mid 1960s, the National Park Service constructed a stone boundary wall along the property line on Newport Avenue from the carriage house to Furnace Brook. The masonry construction matched the existing wall south of the wood shed. This section of wall is non-contributing, but does not detract from the overall character of the property.

#### Post-historic and Existing Conditions:

##### Old House.

Old House remains as it did at the end of Brooks Adams life in 1927, consisting of a two storied brick structure clad with wood clapboards and a gambrel roof (see Figures 17, 18, 28, and 29).

When the house passed to the National Park Service in 1946, the park service referred to it as the Adams Mansion and Old Mansion. However, the family preferred to have the structure referred to as the Old House. Additionally, the name of the park was changed from Adams Mansion National Historic Site to Adams National Historic Site in 1952. The house has been repaired and preserved by the National Park Service, with no alterations to the exterior.

Stone Library.

This building continues to house the family book collection, totaling approximately 14,000 volumes, and is open to ranger-led tour groups. The building facades are covered with ivy, including Boston ivy and wisteria (see Figures 17 and 23).

Carriage House.

The exterior of the carriage house has been preserved, but the interior has been modified to accommodate new functions. The National Park Service uses the building for climate controlled curatorial storage on the second floor with work space for staff and visiting researchers. The first floor houses a visitor's center (see Figure 22).

Woodshed.

The woodshed is extant and is the only surviving farm building on the site (see Figure 24).

Doghouse.

The dog house, though rebuilt, remains in its original location and retains its original appearance (see Figure 22).

Greenhouse.

The National Park Service continues to use the greenhouse to propagate plants for the landscape. The structure is approximately thirty feet long by eleven feet wide, and features a wood gable frame supporting a glass roof on a concrete base rising two feet above grade.

Front Gates and Wall.

The wooden front gates and walls have been restored by the National Park Service in keeping with the design approved by Brooks Adams, including the wooden urns (see Figure 29).

Property Stone Wall (along South and East Boundaries).

The property stone walls along the south and east boundaries built with granite by John Adams and Charles Francis Adams are extant and contribute to the character of the site.

Property Stone Wall (North of Carriage House).

This section of wall is non-contributing, but does not detract from the overall character of the property. The National Park Service also continues to maintain the stone property wall north of the Carriage House (see Figure 25).

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Old House



Peace field

Adams National Historical Park

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Feature Identification Number: 156597

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7

Feature: Stone Library

Feature Identification Number: 156599

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 8

Feature: Carriage House

Feature Identification Number: 156601

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 9

Feature: Woodshed (wood house)

Feature Identification Number: 156603

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 7502

Feature: Dog House

Feature Identification Number: 156605

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 22641

Feature: Greenhouse

Feature Identification Number: 156607

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 10

Feature: Front Gates and Wall

Feature Identification Number: 156609

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 22654

Feature: Property Stone Wall (along South and East Boundaries)

Feature Identification Number: 156611

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 40270

Feature: Property Stone Wall (North of Carriage House)

Feature Identification Number: 156613

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

### **Views and Vistas**

#### **Historic and Existing Conditions:**

##### **View from the Old House to the East Lawn.**

During John Adams' ownership, the east lawn consisted of a farmyard with a barn, stables, and related farm features. Animals, feed, and waste would have been present throughout that time, and the barns and stables, two stories high and no longer extant, blocked the view towards the east. The view beyond these buildings would have been fairly open, since most of the surrounding land during the eighteenth and early nineteenth century was devoted to grazing livestock or growing crops in fields.

In the 1850s, Charles Francis constructed a portico on the east façade of the Old House to provide the family a place to sit and look out over the lawn. Since the late nineteenth century, the view from the Old House to the east lawn extended several hundred feet to the site boundary, marked by a stone wall along Newport Avenue and, to the north, the woodshed and carriage house building cluster. The view from the Old House to the east lawn is still extant (see Figure 24).

##### **View from the Old House to the Garden.**

One of the many charming aspects of the garden was its location within view of the Old House. When John and Abigail Adams first moved to Peace field, one of their first improvement projects was the addition of windows to the first floor of the west façade of the house, which created a view from the mahogany paneled room to the garden.

The view from the Old House to the flower garden is intact, although obscured at times by shades to protect the furnishings within the house (see Figure 18). Visitors do not usually have the opportunity to view the garden.

##### **View from Old House to the North.**

During the John Adams and John Quincy Adams periods, the view from the Old House to the north would have encompassed the farmhouse and the fields beyond. When Charles Francis Adams removed the farmhouse, he noted the improved view from the house. The construction of the Furnace Brook Parkway in the 1880s reduced the property size and transformed the bucolic view to a more urban viewshed.

The view from the Old House to the north has changed since the end of the historic period in

1927, with increased development and a gas station (see Figure 25).

View from Old House South to Presidents Hill.

Located south of the Old House was Presidents Hill, originally known as Stonyfield Hill, where John Adams also owned property. This area consisted mostly of farmland and hayfields. The front porch of the Old House provided a place to sit and look out onto the fields on the hillside.

The view from Old House toward President's Hill has changed since the end of the historic period, with increased residential development and an apartment building on the east corner of Presidents Lane.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: View from Old House to the East Lawn

Feature Identification Number: 156615

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Old House to the Garden

Feature Identification Number: 156617

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Old House to the North

Feature Identification Number: 156619

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: View from Old House South to Presidents Hill

Feature Identification Number: 156621

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Constructed Water Features**

The historic duck pond has been restored and is now an integral part of the landscape. The well and pump continue to operate seasonally, but the location and operation of the drain tiles that underlie the orchard are unknown.

Historic Conditions:

Duck Pond.

John Adams constructed the duck pond in 1821 as a means of controlling the drainage of the low-lying area near his fields north of the Old House. Brooks Adams removed it in the 1900s. Although the feature was not present in 1927, it existed for nearly a century during the earlier periods of Adams stewardship and was a low, wet spot even before and after it was intentionally dug out.

**Well and Pump.**

The well was most likely first installed in the early 1700s along with the construction of the home, providing a water supply. In the 1850s, Charles Francis brought running water into the house, but the well may have been used for other purposes. In 1920, records show that the Adams Memorial Society paid for plumbing, thus eliminating the need for the well.

**Drain Tiles in Orchard.**

Charles Francis Adams installed a clay tile pipe drainage system in the meadow in 1850, fashioned after trends he read about from England. Unglazed ceramic clay pipes were butted together without any sealing so that water could enter the pipes through gaps. The pipes were carefully placed in order to align properly. The drain tiles are not visible and the extent of the historic drainage system is unknown.

**Post-historic and Existing Conditions:**

**Duck Pond.**

The National Park Service restored the pond in 1965, and contracted an archaeologist to determine the original contours of the pond. Excavation during construction revealed that the water table was just below the surface, so to keep the pond filled, the park tapped into the supply to the greenhouse. Two trenches were dug to install pipes for water supply and drainage. In an interview conducted in 2006, former Facility Manager Eugene Gabriel noted that the pond was rehabilitated in the 1980s when park staff laid filter paper, mud, bentonite, and gravel in the pond.

Today, the duck pond is a small kidney-shaped body of water with a gravel bed located approximately in its original site (see Figures 23 and 25). A boxed wooden culvert with a wire screen is located at the head of the northern edge. The size of the pond varies with seasonal run-off.

**Well and Pump.**

The well has been backfilled to within six inches of the surface and a six-foot diameter octagonal painted wood cover sits over it. The pump, a four-foot tall painted cylinder of pieced wood is centered on the cover and is removed during the off-season.

**Drain Tiles in Orchard.**

Remnants of the drain tile system remain below the surface in the orchard and meadow, but the location and extent of the drainage system is unknown.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Duck Pond

Feature Identification Number: 156623

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 11

LCS Structure Name: Adams Estate - Duck Pond

LCS Structure Number:	HS06
Feature:	Well and Pump
Feature Identification Number:	156625
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	22652
LCS Structure Name:	Adams Estate - Well & Pump
LCS Structure Number:	HS13
Feature:	Drain Tiles in Orchard
Feature Identification Number:	156627
Type of Feature Contribution:	Undetermined

### Small Scale Features

#### Historic and Existing Conditions:

##### Hitching Posts.

Six granite hitching posts were installed along Adams Street in 1849. The posts were hexagonal and tapered towards the top. The posts were originally three to four feet tall, but the reconstruction of Adams Street resulted in a higher grade, reducing the height of the posts. The six hitching posts are extant, with only two and half feet visible above grade.

##### Weathervane.

The weathervane was first used at the First Church in Quincy and was then acquired by John Adams in the 1820s, who then installed it on top of a pole in the field south of the Old House. After completing construction of the stone library in 1870, Charles Francis Adams installed the weathervane on top of the slate roof. The weathervane is still extant and in good condition.

##### Haystack.

A haystack is located in the meadow north of the Old House for interpretive purposes. The haystack was created by the National Park Service grounds staff using a colonial era technique. The park uses the haystack for interpretive programs (see Figure 25).

##### Park Signs.

Since acquiring the site in 1946, the National Park Service has installed signs, including one between the front entrance gates, at the southwest corner of the property and along the northern boundary edge of Furnace Brook. There are also smaller directional signs guiding visitors through the grounds around the Old House. Directional and operational park signs currently surround the property (see Figure 29).

##### Flagpole.

The National Park Service installed a flagpole, roughly sixty feet high, in the east lawn in the

late 1940s. The flagpole is extant in the same location today (see Figure 18).

#### Benches.

Hardwood benches with backs and arm rests are placed in the garden area for visitors and a wooden backless bench is located southwest of the garden and is used by park staff (see Figure 17).

#### Drying Yard.

A drying yard stood north of the house in the early 1800s and is referenced in 1828 as north of the house. The location may have shifted as the kitchen ell of the house was extended. The original materials are gone. The park marks the location of the drying yard with eight posts and a rope to the north of the house on the slope to the lower meadow (see Figure 25).

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Hitching Posts (6)

Feature Identification Number: 156629

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 40276

LCS Structure Name: Adams Estate - Adams Street Hitching Posts

LCS Structure Number: HS23

Feature: Weathervane

Feature Identification Number: 156631

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Haystack

Feature Identification Number: 156633

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Park Signs

Feature Identification Number: 156635

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Flagpole

Feature Identification Number: 156637

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Bench

Peace field

Adams National Historical Park

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Feature Identification Number: 156639

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Drying Yard

Feature Identification Number: 156641

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/25/2012

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In the course of research undertaken for the writing of the Cultural Landscape Report and completing this Cultural Landscape Inventory, several site visits were conducted to examine various features of the landscape. Overall, the house and other landscape features are in good condition. The site shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The site's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

### Impacts

<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Adjacent Lands
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Adjacent land uses (heavy traffic and commercial use) to the north and east are incongruous with the historic bucolic setting.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Flooding
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Both Internal and External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Furnace Brook is susceptible to siltation, which can lead to flooding. The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation routinely removes silt and refuse from the Furnace Brook channel.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Pests/Diseases
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Both Internal and External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Several American elms have been lost to Dutch Elm Disease. One large historic elm remains. Other elms have been replaced with disease resistant American elm cultivars.



<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Pests/Diseases
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Both Internal and External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	All white ashes have been lost due to age and disease.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Soil Compaction
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Abigail Adams's historic lilacs are in fair to poor condition and some are missing from the entry area due to poor soil conditions.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Operations On Site
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Universal access is impeded by steps at the Old House entry, a step into the stone library, and by soft gravel path surfaces in the garden and driveway area.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Vegetation/Invasive Plants
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Both Internal and External
<b>Impact Description:</b>	Invasive species have populated the vegetation buffer between the orchard and Furnace Brook Parkway.
<b>Type of Impact:</b>	Visitation
<b>Other Impact:</b>	n/a
<b>External or Internal:</b>	Internal
<b>Impact Description:</b>	The park lacks a clear circulation route through the landscape and visitor time is limited by the trolley schedule.

## Treatment

## **Treatment**

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined  
**Approved Treatment Document:** General Management Plan  
**Document Date:** 01/01/1996

### **Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

In 1996, the park approved a General Management Plan that articulated the management philosophy and direction for the site. The goals of the plan were to assist the National Park Service to continue to preserve the site as steward of its historic structures, landscape, and objects; enhance the site's role as educator; and serve as an active partner in the community. The General Management Plan specifically addressed the cultural landscape at Peace field, recognizing the deteriorated condition of many specimen trees and identifying the need for more in-depth research to better manage the grounds based on historical data.

A treatment plan is in progress (2012). The plan recommends a preservation treatment for most of the property, with an area of rehabilitation along the northeast boundary to introduce some screening to visually obscure incongruous commercial use and heavy traffic.

**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

## **Approved Treatment Costs**

**Cost Date:** 01/01/1996

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### **Supplemental Information**

**Title:** Historic American Buildings Survey

**Description:** Maps. Works Progress Administration Project, U.S. Department of the Interior,  
Denver Service Center, ADAM 38625002 id. 43981